

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 39)

ANTIPHON: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

RESPONSE: Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

LECTOR: I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R.**

LECTOR: You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **R.**

LECTOR: Ir: the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **R.**

LECTOR: Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the Messiah; Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Or

We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

TODAY'S READINGS 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; John 1:35-42

NEXT WEEK (3rd Sunday, Year B) John 3:1-5, 10; Ps 24; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

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Jesus dwells
in what
house?

How does God speak to us? Or, to put it another way, how does God reveal the divine being to us?

The term "revelation" comes from the Greek word "apocalypse", which originally meant a vision or a dream. The bible has numerous stories of dreamers and visionaries to whom God revealed divine being – today's first reading tells of the child Samuel who hears God calling him while he slept in the temple. But for the most part, such numinous experiences are rare.

In the bible, there is a great deal of speaking to God; but little conversation the other way, at least to those who are not prophets and sages.

The prophet Habakkuk complains that God's failure to respond to prayer more regularly and explicitly is the cause of Israel's faithlessness (Hab 1:2-4; cf. Is 64:12).

The bible is littered with demands that one be silent and listen (e.g., Job 33:33; Ps 4:4; Amos 8:3; Mal 2:2; Zep 1:7; 2:13; 1 Cor 14:28; Rev 2:7; 3:20). Yet those of us who profess allegiance to the Judeo-Christian tradition cannot always suppress a sense that no matter how hard we listen, we often do not hear anything. So, we are once again back to the question with which we began: how does God speak to us?

In today's gospel, two disciples of John the Baptist – one of whom was Andrew,

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Peter's brother – encounter Jesus who in John's Gospel is proclaimed as the Word of God made flesh. The scene is played out in a manner that appears so mundane. The disciples ask Jesus, "Where do you live?"; to which Jesus replies, "Come and see!" There is an incredible irony here.

For Judeans in Jesus' time, as well as Israelites in the time of Samuel, the temple was the dwelling place of God – the one place in all the universe where God's glory broke through from realms of the sacred into the profane world. And yet here in the person of Jesus those two disciples have met and seen the dwelling place of God's glory (Jn 1:14) – in other words, the true temple of God.

So, how do we hear the voice of God? The simple answer is in many and varied ways – in the wonders of creation; in the touch of a human hand; in the stories of prophets and sages – but, most fully, it is in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and in his "house" that the divine being is available and ready to speak to us.

Today's gospel is an invitation to "come and see [where Jesus lives]"; to reflect on his story; to listen to his words; and, thereby, to hear afresh the voice of God speaking directly to us in Word and Sacrament within the community of disciples.

Ian J Elmer

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Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

Sunday Masses	<u>Saturday</u> 6.00 pm Vigil	2nd SUNDAY of the YEAR	<u>17/1/2021: B</u>
Weekday Masses	<u>Sunday</u> 7.30 am & 9.00am	<u>Monday</u> 9.00 am	Week 2 of Ordinary Time
	<u>Tuesday</u> 9.00am	<u>Tuesday</u> 9.00am	Week 2 of Ordinary Time
	<u>Wednesday</u> 7.30 pm then Rosary.	<u>Wednesday</u> 9.00 am	of Ordinary Time
	<u>Thursday</u> 9.00 am	<u>Thursday</u> 9.00 am	St. Agnes, 3rd C. martyr in Rome
	<u>Friday</u> 9.00 am	<u>Friday</u> 9.00 am	Week 2 of Ordinary Time
	<u>Saturday</u> 9.00 am	<u>Saturday</u> 9.00 am	Week 2 of Ord. Time Exposition?
Confessions	<u>Saturday</u> 10.30 am,	12.00-1.00pm,	5.00-5.30pm
Parish Priest	Father C. Ashton	(Confessions after Mass: see Fr.)	
Presbytery/Church	9 Ropes Creek Rd, Old Mt. Druitt	Ph: 9625-8847	
Baptisms	By arrangement – Godparents must be Catholics.		
Weddings	Six Months Notice – Marriage Preparation Course		

Exposition of the BI Sacrament for 1/2hr. after 9.00am Mass & Rosary Sat' dy if enough

1st Reading: This quote shows Samuel's choice by God as a prophet. The part left out tells Samuel why God has chosen him to be a prophet over the priest Eli, his instructor.
2nd Reading: Paul is insisting on the seriousness of sexual conduct according to God's law. Their bodies are not to be used for immorality because they are temples of God!

	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
January 24	J. SALAZAR	E. MERJUDIO	M. WONG
3 rd Sunday of the Year	S. FERNANDEZ	T. MERJUDIO	B. BUHAGIAR
January 31	W. FARQUHARSON	A. WIGGINS	M. ZORE
4 th Sunday of the Year	H. VILLARICA	J. MENDES	H. CRUZ

PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady will be at the home of the Antown family 8 Edith St. 98644585 this week You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at 8.00pm!

ASH-WEDNESDAY will fall on **Wednesday 17 February** this year
A PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING will be held next Sunday evening, **January 24**, in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. It has been several months since the last meeting and there are significant matters to be examined. So all the members are invited. If any can't attend please let Father know in plenty of time!

GIVE LORD ETHERNAL REST to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Malcomb FARQUHARSON, Reginald & Marie THORN, Marcelina & Gregorio MERJUDIO, Alejo & Basilia CHUA, Nico SANDAGA, Bogart & Rino LLAVE, Mamerto CUI, Owen DAVOREN, Barbara WILSON, Allan BERNADINO, Nikola MIKOSIC, Mark LEE, George & Whitemena LAVIS, Corrine PIETERSZ, Elisa SANJOSE, Mara & Ivo KOTARAC, Daniel & Daniela CUKAR, Ante & Nada GULIN, Slavko & Dubravko PERIC, Louis & Maria PEREIRA, Ana MEDINA, Robert HUGHES, Deborah MEDWIG, Gregory SPAGNOLETTI, David DEFEQ, Thomas COLLINS, Dorothy & Joseph CALDER, Mate DZAJA, John & Joanna PEREIRO, Janina KELLER, Anna HEW, Loretta LEGRAND, Nada & Badriya MATTI, Maryam NISAN, Mercedes CORTES, Marian & Sevrin LEWIS. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory

The "QUEST & PAV" SYSTEM

We have been instructed to introduce a 'Tap & Go' method for a substitute system for the Collections. As you well know, the Parish and the whole Catholic Church depends on the generosity of you, "the Faithful" to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral, and charitable ministries, and we are ever grateful for your unrelenting support, no matter how small it is. We are well aware of the fact that you have commitments too, and can't always give as much as you might want to. But those who can make up for those who can't at any particular time. If there is one good thing the "Covid 19" pandemic has achieved, it is to make it possible for all those who, for whatever reason, find they can't contribute to the Collection plates, not to feel they have to contribute because a Collection plate is passed in front of them. With the two boxes at both doors, it is open to all who can't afford anything at the moment to just walk past them on any particular Sunday without dropping anything into the boxes.

Now it is a law of the Church that Catholics must contribute to the material support of the Church, but that only is meant to operate if a person has sufficient resources to do so, and in these times many can be out of work and have little income, and really no spare resources. St. Paul himself on one of his missionary journeys through the ancient Roman Empire which was southern Europe at the time, took up a collection for the "saints" in Jerusalem because they had fallen on hard times. He did it to help the "faithful" in Jerusalem who could not afford to support the Church there at that time.

Back to the present, you will find a "Tap & Go" device at the front door on the table there. It is a safe and easy way for you to make a CASHLESS contribution to the Parish. These gadgets have to be set at a specific amount which can't be altered except by a rearranging of the mechanism. So the amount it has been programmed to accept is \$5-- . When you tap it with your Credit Card it will register that amount. Now, if you choose to give more, then you have to tape it again. That will double it to \$10--, but, be warned, it will take about 10 seconds to do so. So if you want to do that it might be better to do so when you are entering rather than when you are leaving, otherwise you may find a traffic jam building up behind you while you wait for the process to work its way through.

Anyway, we have to try it out according to the authorities and see how we go. I'd be pleased to hear any comments about this new system, which you can also express to a member of the Pastoral Council or Finance Committee, and we can discuss them at our meetings. Next week I will publish the names of the Council members so you can approach them if you wish to give them your ideas about this new system. But I do think it is a good thing that now because of Covid 19 your contributions are anonymous (between you and God, so to speak?), and no-one else needs to know about them!

The NEWMAN CATHOLIC BOOK Centre at St. Marys, **15 Collins St.**, behind "Our Lady of the Rosary" Church at St. Marys would be grateful to have volunteers who would be able to give a few hours sometime during the week to help with orders, unpack boxes, etc. If possible, ring **Mrs. Gabrielle Smith: 9675-2235** Wed, Thur, Friday 9.30-5.00pm, Sat 10.00-3.00pm. Some cards are at the side door. This shop is packed with a huge amount of items, statues up to half/metre high, pictures, books, pamphlets, beads, medals, DVDs, CDs, crosses, and can order in almost anything. Plenty of off-street parking. Email: fr@cardinalnewman.com.au