



Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

Sunday Masses	Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil Sunday 7.30 am & 9.00am
Weekday Masses	Monday 9.00 am Tuesday 9.00am Wednesday 7.30 pm then Rosary. Week 3 of Ordinary Time Thursday 9.00 am Friday 9.00 am Saturday 9.00 am
Confessions	Saturday 10.30 am, 12.00-1.00pm, 5.00pm-5.30pm (Confessions after Mass: see Fr.)
Parish Priest	Father C. Ashton
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 Bl Sacrament for 1/2hr. after 9.00am Mass & Rosary Sat'dy. if enough

1st Reading: Nineveh is the capital of Assyria, enemy of the Jews. Jonah is a reluctant prophet. But he goes to preach repentance to the Ninevites, & is surprised by the result

2nd Reading: Paul's belief is that Christ's return is soon, and wants the people to know that the passing things of life do not have a lasting value, so focus on the eternal things.

Readers	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
January 31	W. FARQUHARSON	A. WIGGINS	A WONG
4 th Sunday of the Year	H. VILLARICA	J. MENDES	H. CRUZ
February 7	L. VILLAPANA	V. NAGARAJA	F. ANTOWN
5 th Sunday of the Year	J. SALAZAR	A. MCKENZIE	M. ZORE

PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady will be at the home of the Fares family 18 Ropes Creek Rd. 96779396 this week. You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at: 8.00 pm

A PASTORAL COUNCIL meeting was scheduled for tonight, but due to the heat wave we are in at the moment, we will **post-pone it till next Sunday**. So we will have the meeting on 31 January at 7.30pm in the Hall. Who is on the Pastoral Council which we must have by order of the Canon Law and the Bishop.

The members are: Phillip Tonks, Jerome D'Rozario, Annette Wiggins, Vince Sammut, Joaquim Mendes, Mark Buhagiar, Vinod Nagaraja, Metroy Farquharson, Teresa Samuels, Mathias Wong, Jeric Salazar. If you have any issue you would like presented at the meeting, you can approach any of these and tell him/her all about it!

GIVE LORD ETHERNAL REST to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Nicholas APAP, Katarina MASLAK, Fr. Peter NEVILLE, Candida & Bernabe FUNELAS, Arnella PLAN, Flora TOLEDO, Owen DAVOREN, Josef SANTIAGO, Corinne PIETERSZ, Maria SIME, Andres VELASCO, Sr. Patrocla, Barbara WILSON, Lillian HEALY, Nikola MIKOSIC, George & Whilemena LAVIS, Anna HEW, Juanito & Florencio VILLENA, Dionisia & Basilio DELOSREYES, Erdulfo PENAFIEL, Maria MARCZEWSKA, Joseph & Anastasia GLENNON, Renee MARSH, Helen KITTLE, Monique DEJESUS, Donald SPAMPINATO, Damian MEEHAN, Lucia CRIFASI, Manuel MEJIA, Frank & Matilda DEMENEZES, Eugene & Florence FERNANDEZ. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory!

These two martyr saints should be fairly familiar to you because their names appear in the "Roman Canon" (or the 1st Eucharistic Prayer). They are martyrs from the days of ancient Rome. They are mentioned here not just for that reason but because their Feast Days have just occurred. With St. Anastasia strangely enough it is Christmas Day itself. No one knows why, but from antiquity she has been allotted the 2nd Mass of Christmas Day. With St. Agnes, it is 21 January which was last Thursday.

St. Anastasia has her name derived from the Greek word for 'Resurrection' (anastasis). Very little is known about her as is usual for these ancient martyrs. It is certain she was a martyr and it seems at Sirmium near modern day Poland. She was martyred about 304AD during the last persecution of Emperor Diocletian. There are legends about her life but none can be substantiated. She was greatly honoured in the early Church, that's why she is in the Roman Canon, but the historical records are gone.

St. Agnes derives her name from the Roman (Latin) word for a 'lamb' (agnus). She also died in the same persecution as St. Anastasia, but in a different locality. She definitely died in Rome about 304AD, and it seems she was only a child about 13 years, and consecrated her virginity to God. She offered herself for martyrdom and was executed by a sword thrust in the throat. A Basilica was built in her honour outside Rome where her relics now repose, and because of her name (a lamb), each year on her Feast Day (21 Jan) the wool from two lambs is blessed in the Basilica and used for the 'pallium' that archbishops wear around their necks when they celebrate Mass. She was greatly honoured in the early Church, hence her name was included in the Roman Canon!

The "AUSTRALIA DAY" MASS on Tuesday is a clear opportunity for us to pray for our country in which we have chosen to live. We should be praying for it often, it needs it, but we forget. Well, this is a good opportunity because it is a public holiday. Pray some of your Rosaries and Masses for Australia for we are going to need a lot of protection in the turbulent years that seem to be coming. Many of us will not have to live through them, but your children will probably have to. Our Lady saved Europe through the Rosary in 1571, at the **Battle of Lepanto**, from certain destruction by the Moslems, we should be asking her to save us from the trails that might be coming, from them or China! We can do this in our Masses and Rosaries!

PLANTS for SALE (for the Parish): Mrs Nelly Teng is offering a lot of plants she has cultivated for the Parish. But there is a problem. There are so many, it would need a big truck to get them all here for you to see. So she invites you to come to her house where you can view them. She is at -10 Farrington St., Minchinbury (right beside the cemetery). Her Phone is: 0425/223-108 SHE HAS:
CHERRY TOMATO TREES from \$3-, **PAPAYA TREES** from \$5-
HASS AVOCADO TREES from \$10- Also available: Matured (2 to 4 years old) Hass Avocado Trees from \$25-
 Lemon grass, Night blooming jasmine, Golden dewdrops, Roses, Succulent plants, etc
 Also there are **FREE CUTTINGS** of ---- **ROSEMARY & MINTS**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 24)

ANTIPHON: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

RESPONSE: Teach me your ways, O Lord.

LECTOR: Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **R.**

LECTOR: Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News! Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Or

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

TODAY'S READINGS John 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

NEXT WEEK (4th Sunday, Year B) Dt 18:15-20; Ps 94; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Lenten Booklet

With Lent just around the corner, you may like to consider a Lenten pamphlet from the Majellan Bookstore. Lenten Prayers for Seniors is available for \$5.50, postage included. Go to:

[www.majellan.media/
bookstore/](http://www.majellan.media/bookstore/)



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Leaving a
better world

St Paul's advice for Christian living seems alarmingly negative: life is very short, so don't get too caught up in things of the world, whether relationships, politics, economics or cultural pursuits. His reason is simple: "the world as we know it is passing away".

In fact, the passing nature of the world in which we live today is occurring at an increasingly rapid pace due to the technological revolution which impacts on jobs, communications, travel, climate, habitat, lifestyle, business, recreation, to name a few. Time seems to be moving faster and the experiences of life more fleeting.

In other terms, we recognise increasing threats of terrorism, global warming, nuclear war and what is fast becoming the largest mass migration of human beings in history. While the biblical destruction of Nineveh did not come to pass, we must wonder if the destruction of peoples, cultures and entire eco-systems in our current world is not the impending Nineveh disaster of our own times.

Clearly, it is now our time to listen to the voices of the prophets ably summarised in the words of Jesus: "The time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand; repent and believe in the Good News". Or in the words of Pope Francis: "It is we human beings who need to change" if we are "to safeguard our common home" (planet earth), enact justice

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for all people and provide a world that will be habitable for future generations.

Jonah, John the Baptist, Jesus and Francis are at one in challenging human greed and corruption which threaten us and our world. However, no matter how things may appear, there is no cause for despair. We have genuine human, spiritual and practical options. Like Simon, Andrew, James and John, we too are being "called by name" to leave behind the things that bind us, and to become missionary disciples of God's justice and mercy. This is what Jesus calls "the Good News" and what Francis calls "The joy of the Gospel".

We are not capable of saving ourselves or our world. Only God brings reconciliation, healing, final hope and salvation. But God calls us to be partners in this work of creation and salvation. Like the prophets and apostles before us, we too are called to be co-workers with Christ and the Holy Spirit in enabling the "reign of God" to come about.

We must pray for the courage of the first disciples to give ourselves wholeheartedly to our relationship with Jesus and commitment to his mission of mercy. Likewise, we pray that the Church, its leaders and ourselves will not shy away from the radical demands of the gospel and discipleship.