

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 94)

**ANTIPHON:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**RESPONSE:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**LECTOR:** Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R**

**LECTOR:** Come in; let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

**LECTOR:** O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **R**

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

**Or**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1: 21-28

**NEXT WEEK** (5th Sunday, Year B) Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1; Psalm 146; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1: 29-39

*Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan*

### Figuring out Families

Have you listened to Majellan Media's Figuring out Families podcasts yet? A new focus series has just begun with parenting expert Dr Rosina McAlpine who speaks about Win Win Parenting and Emotional Intelligence. You can listen to her now at

[www.majellan.media/figuring-out-families/](http://www.majellan.media/figuring-out-families/)

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*Trust in the  
truth*

It is not unusual to suggest that people have been 'economical with the truth'.

Generally, this is a kind way of suggesting that they have been embellishing a story or telling a 'white lie' to avoid giving offence.

However, in this new age of tweeting on social media, in some circles the truth seems to have become a rare commodity. If lying becomes commonplace it certainly damages trust and inevitably human relations become strained and societies becomes divided. Of course, there is

always the temptation to conclude that we are seeing a deterioration in behaviour by comparison with a bygone era and there is no doubt that duplicity and deceit have been part and parcel of the human story from the very beginning.

This Sunday the Church invites us to reflect on how Moses reassured his people that God would raise up a prophet like himself, to whom they must listen and whom they could trust. There is also a warning for those prophets who choose to go their own way. They will not prosper. The Old Testament is littered with the stories of such prophets who tried to mislead the people for their own ends.

Ultimately, there is no doubt that Moses is pointing us towards the coming of Jesus. At the beginning of his gospel, Mark is determined that we should get the connection by establishing the authority

of Jesus, who acts and speaks in a manner that clearly the people had not been used to. Jesus makes a deep impression on them precisely because he teaches 'with authority'. He speaks the truth.

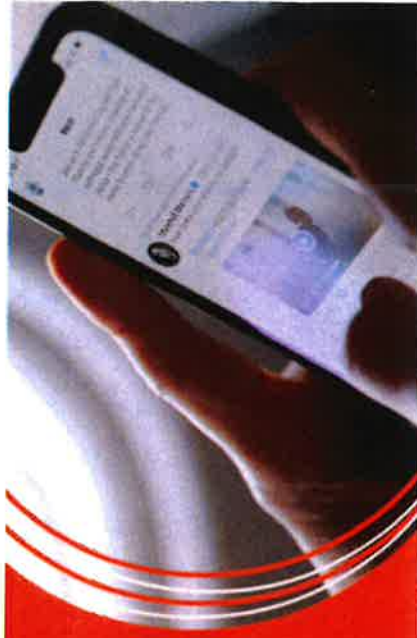
The battle between good and evil is going to be waged and it is the man who possesses the spirit of evil who identifies Jesus of Nazareth as "the Holy One of God". This is the truth that Mark wishes to establish in our minds right from the outset and everything that follows is designed to reinforce that message. In our age, as in every age, we are caught up in the great struggle between good and evil.

At the same time, the recurring theme is that Christ, in his passion, death and glorious resurrection, has conquered and that his victory is our victory if we allow his Spirit to dwell within us. By the time John is writing his gospel, after a lifetime of meditating on this mystery, repeatedly he returns to the notion of truth. At the Last Supper he recalls that Jesus points out to Thomas that he is "the way, the truth and the life", having previously taught those who took his word to heart: "you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free."<sup>1</sup>

In an age of fake news, we will do well to ensure that we always speak the truth and then we can enjoy the freedom that follows.

**Tim Buckley CSSR**  
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**31 January 2021 4th Sunday Year B**





# Sacred Heart Parish

South Mount Druitt

**Sunday Masses** **Saturday 6.00 pm Vigil 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of the YEAR**  
**Weekday Masses** **Sunday 7.30 am & 9.00am** **31/1/2021: B**  
 Monday 9.00 am Week 4 of Ordinary Time.  
 Tuesday 9.00am & 7.30pm **Presentation of the Lord**  
 Wednesday 7.30 pm then Rosary Week 4 of Ordinary Time  
 Thursday 9.00 am Week 4 of Ordinary Time.  
 Friday 9.00 am & 7.00 pm **St. Agatha, 4<sup>rd</sup> C. Martyr**  
 Saturday 9.00 am **St. Paul Miki & 25 Comp. Martyrs**

**Confessions** Saturday 10.30am, **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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** This section confirms Moses as the greatest prophet to the Jews. He predicts another prophet like him to come in future and will speak with authority also.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Paul speaks about unmarried people. Don't let yourselves be led astray by human dilemmas. These will come, but the Lord must have your undivided attention

Readers	6.00pm	7.30am	9.00am
February 7	L. VILLAPANANA	V. NAGARAJA	F. ANTOWN
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	J. SALAZAR	A. MCKENZIE	M. ZORE
February 14	H. VILLARICA	E. MERJUDIO	M. BUHAGIAR
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	E. GEMZON	T. MERJUDIO	M. WONG

**PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady** will be at the home of the Hernandez family 6 Edith St. p8644495 this week. You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at 7.30pm

**FIRST FRIDAY MASS at 7.00pm followed by Exposition till 12Mass. Continues till 2.00am**  
**A PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING** will be held **TONIGHT, January 31**, in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm. The members of the Council were mentioned in last week's Bulletin!

**The ANOINTING of the SICK** will be conferred tomorrow, Monday, after 9.00am Mass!

**GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST** to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Fr. Peter NEVILLE, Josef SANTIAGO, Bernadette LAMOTAN, Barbara WILSON, Katarina MASLAK, Barry COOPER, Marie McLEOD, Leonida VERGARA, Issak & Alice FARES, David & Mary DAS, Mauida & Frank DEMENEZES, Candida & Bernabe FUNELAS, George & Whitemena LAVIS, Anna LACEK, Joseph & Theresa LEE, Corinne PIETERSZ, Alejo & Basilia CHUA, Kiongloc TENG, Gregorio & Marcelina MERJUDIO, Stephania ZORE, Eddie HAGEMANN, Mary & Arthur CLIFT, Cresintina & Francis MONTEIRO, Louis & Maria PEREIRA, Francisco & Francisca LEONG, Louise & Julian BOCABARTELL, Helen VINCENT, William MEEHAN, Nereida DEYESUS, John SPARTARO, Daniel CRISMAN, James CRAWFORD, Alok MEHTA, Mary AHKAU, Helena ULANOWSKA, Koral & Esho SOSO, Elies & Joseph ANTOWN, Cipriano & Fidela NATANAWAN, Kosa & Dragica ARBANANAS, Daniel & Daniela CUKAR. Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory!

## The Presentation of the Infant Jesus

This Remembrance of Christ's being presented in the Temple at 40 days old is the last echo of Christmas. It is expounded by St. Luke only, and tells us of a strange incident remembered well by Our Lady (who would've told St. Luke) where two old people came up to them as they entered the Temple to perform the Right of Presentation and Purification. We will read all about it in the Gospel.

This day takes its thrust from what the old man, Simeon, said. He speaks of the Baby being the "Light to enlighten the Gentiles". So because of his revelation, we speak of Christ as the Light of the World. **CANDLES** expel light, so today we use and bless Candles because they can be appropriately used as Symbols of Light, not just visible light but "The Light" that means the Revelation of Christ. Without this Light, we would know nothing of what is to come! The "Light" of Christ is the most fundamental light of all knowledge that we have on Earth.

Without this Light, we can't know what will happen after this life!

At the Blessing of any Candles, we use the following Antiphons:

**Opening Antiphon: BEHOLD, OUR LORD WILL COME WITH POWER, TO ENLIGHTEN THE EYES OF HIS SERVANTS, ALLELUIA.**

Beginning the Procession to the Altar, the Priest says:

**LET US GO IN PEACE TO MEET THE LORD**

During the Procession to the Altar, he recites the Canticle of Simeon beginning with the Antiphon:

### A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES AND THE GLORY OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL

(Three verses follow)  
 The Entrance Antiphon of the Mass follows as usual when the priest reaches the Altar.

**St. AGATHA** is another martyr from the last persecution of Christians, begun by Emperor Dioclesian in 304AD. It was eventually stopped by Emperor Constantine in 311AD. But by then many Christians had been put to death. Some of the most notable ones are mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharistic Prayer. Agatha was added in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. In the early Church she was famous. Two Churches were built in Rome in her honour. Sadly nothing of her story is known. There is a legend she was betrayed by a rejected suitor, but this can't be proven. That she existed there is no doubt. That she was famous, also no doubt shown by the many inscriptions about her, but why—unknown?  
**First Communion Notice:** Any parents wishing their children to make their First Holy Communion here this year, will need to write their names on a piece of paper with an address & phone no., and give to Father over the next few weeks. The Ceremony will be on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June. The children will need to be in 4<sup>th</sup> Class, at least  
**The 'Tap & Go' Device** at the front door of the Church is there for those who wish to use it for their contribution to what was once the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (which is meant for the Parish; not the 1<sup>st</sup> Coll. which goes to the Bishop). Use it if you wish;  
 Tap once for \$5- and each further Tap adds another \$5-.

**"The HUSTLE"** will resume 7.00—8.30pm **Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**. A Final Year seminar Adam Carlow, will talk about "Mary, Mother of the Church" and the reasons why she has this title.. Unit 4, 4 Purdy St Minchinbury. Tea/Coff/Pizza \$5- please for pizza