

## *We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Or

When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 18)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**LECTOR:** The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R.**

**LECTOR:** They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25

**NEXT WEEK** (4th Sunday of Lent, Year B) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 136; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

*Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan*

### **Year of the Family**

Pope Francis has declared a 'year of the family' to celebrate the 'beauty and challenges' of family life. It will begin on March 19 on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph and run until June 26, 2022. The Majellan which has long been a proud supporter of the 'family' will feature stories and provide resources on our website to promote Amoris laetitia (The Joy of Love). Details at [www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)

# majellan

## *Understanding the Jesus story*

If there is one incident in Jesus' life that leads us to question his judgment, the story of him taking a whip and angrily driving people out of the temple must rank as a strong contender. We have heard in recent weeks that Jesus can be forthright in challenging people – even calling pharisees 'hypocrites' to their faces! But our major image is of a patient and forgiving Jesus rather than someone striking out at people with a raging temper.

So, how are we to understand this story? A good place to start is another story of Jesus visiting the Jerusalem temple with his mother and father when he was a twelve-year old boy. On that occasion, Jesus becomes so caught up by the temple experience, he misses the caravan taking his family back to Nazareth. When his parents realise Jesus is missing, they hasten back to find him among the temple priests and elders, engaging with them about the meaning of the Scriptures.

Now, the temple for traditional Israelites was the holiest of all places on earth enabling people to experience the presence of the living God in their lives in an unsurpassed way. This must have been Jesus' boyhood experience evident in his response to his confused parents: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49). So, when Jesus returns to the temple some twenty years later and finds it filled with hawkers, merchants and other traders, he is incensed that greed and money-

lust have turned his 'Father's house' into a marketplace. However, rather than directing his anger to the little people who are simply trying to make a living, surely Jesus should have confronted the temple priests who no doubt benefited financially from this defilement of God's house.

Jesus has this opportunity to respond to the chief priests when they challenge him for his table-turning, whip-lashing behaviour. In answer to their question: "On what authority do you do this?" Jesus' strange response confounds everyone: "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days."

Somehow, this is a moment of insight for Jesus. He begins to realise his mission of communicating God's love and forgiveness will result in the destruction of the other temple – his own body – on a cross. Yet, God's glory will always shine through beyond suffering, cruelty and death itself.

This is the paradox St Paul writes about in his letter to the Corinthians. He realises how preaching a crucified Christ is folly to Jews and Greeks alike. Yet Paul also knows we must acknowledge our own sinfulness and stupidity if we are to experience God's power and wisdom. Too often, we are like the temple traders busy with our own pursuits rather than seekers of the living God. Often, we ignore God's covenant because we are afraid to witness to a crucified-and-risen Christ who heals our weakness and failures with divine love and mercy.

7 March 2021 3rd Sunday Lent Year B



# Sacred Heart Parish

## South Mount Druitt

<b>Sunday Masses</b>	<b>Saturday 6:00 pm Vigil</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	<b>7/3/2021: B</b>
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	<b>7:30 am &amp; 9:00am</b>	Week 3 of Lent	
	9:00 am	Week 3 of Lent	
	9:00am	Week 3 of Lent	
	7:30pm then Rosary.	Week 3 of Lent	
	9:00 am	Week 3 of Lent	
	9:00 am & 7:00pm	Week 3 of Lent. Stations	
	9:00 am	Week 3 of Lent.	
<b>Confessions</b>	10:30am,	<b>12:00-1:00pm,</b>	5:00-5:30pm
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Father C. Ashton	(Confessions after Mass: see Fr.)	
<b>Presbytery/Church</b>	9 Ropes Creek Rd, Old Mt. Druitt Ph: 9625-8847		
<b>Baptisms</b>	By arrangement - Godparents must be Catholics.		

**Exposition of the Bl.Sacrament for 1/2 hr.after 9:00am Mass&Rosary Sat'dy if enough**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** This is one of two versions of the 10 Commandments given in the Pentateuch.God gives these toMoses as a code of conduct in HisCovenant with theJews

**2<sup>nd</sup>Reading:** To the ancients the cross was like a hanging noose is to us, a sign of shame, of madness or weakness. Through Christ, it has become a sign of God's wisdom

Readers	6:00pm	7:30am	9:00am
March 14	L. VILLAPANA	J. MENDES	M. WONG
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	H. VILLARICA	A. MCKENZIE	F. ANTOWN
March 21	S. FERNANDEZ	A. WIGGINS	H. CRUZ
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	M. FARQUHARSON	V. NAGARAJA	B. BUHAGIAR

**PILGRIM STATUE of Our Lady** will be at the home of the Monteiro family 47 Wehlow St. 96755483 this week. You are welcome for a Rosary for the Parish each night at 8:00pm !

If anyone would like to have the Statue for a week and offer the Rosary for the eternal Salvation of all parishioners, put your name on the list that you will find on the table next to the Pamphlet Rack at your right side. You could expect to receive it about once every seven months. It will be brought to you, and you deliver it to the next family for the next week !

**A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING** will be held in the Hall next Sunday night: **7:30pm**

**GIVE LORD ETERNAL REST** to the souls of all the faithful departed especially Bishop Bede HEATHER, Fr. Michael O'CALLAGHAN, Fr. George O'MARA, Alfred SCHEMBRI, Aswad SHABO, Estefania CHUA, Alejo & Basilia CHUA, Nico SANDAGA, Neville MENEZES, Handoyo ZABDIEL, Jack STASZAK, Keith & Paula GARDNER, Anna LACEK, Kazic & Casey KELLER, Malcomb FARQUHARSON, Michael WONG, Thomas WIGGINS, Enchong UY, KiongLoc TENG, Mariano & Carlo FUNELAS, George & Whitemena LAVIS, Ruzena & Josef KOZUMPLIK, Joseph & Elis ANTOWN, Sarah & Najeba KORIAL, Peter WONG, Anthony & Josephine GUILLAUMIER, Michael SEAMAN, Mami O'DOHERTY, Cristina DeL.AURA, Christopher CRAMER, Arturo SERENO, William DEAN, Maria & Krsto CUKAR, Mira SMOKROVIC, Bien & Estella BULAONG, Ike NEVEA, Obstelinda GARCIA, Angel & Maria CARRIZALES.

Let us be united in the Kingdom of Your Glory!

### Srs. FELICITY and PERPETUA, Feast Day.

These two saints were martyrs in the early Church in the days of the Roman Empire, and their names are enshrined in the 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharistic Prayer. As is usual, we know very little about them apart from the fact that they were real people and did die as martyrs. The whole is complicated a little by the fact that there are two St. Felicitys in the early Church. 'Felicity' was not an uncommon name in those times because it simply meant 'Happy' in Latin. (The male form is Felix) (But is seems the other Felicity was a martyr in the preceding century in Rome). These two martyrs died in 203AD in the ancient city of Carthage which is today 'Tunis' capital of Tunisia in North Africa across the Mediterranean Sea from Rome. There is a written record of their deaths, scanty though it is. They lived during the time of the Emperor Septimus Severus who forbade any conversions to Christianity. They were both catechumens, awaiting Baptism and were arrested as such. They received Baptism in prison and condemned to execution in the arena at Carthage. Perpetua was a young married woman with a baby in arms. Felicity was a slave girl. On the day of the martyrdom, the record says they entered the arena with four men, also condemned to death, with "gay and gallant looks". The account says that they clung to each other when attacked by a savage bull. The others were attacked by leopards, bears, and boars. Finally each was killed by a sword thrust to the throat as they lay wounded on the ground.

Such are the ways many of the early martyrs died for the Faith they had so recently adopted. How can we complain when we have to bear some minor inconveniences on occasions. These people are an example to us of how we should live our Faith that we practise so freely in our society of today. But it may not always be such. In China today, and some other parts of the world, Christians must suffer and be put to death for the Faith of Christ, and many are not Catholics. But their endurance will save their souls and convey a great glory in Heaven.

### TONIGHT AT THE "THE HUSTLE" for the YOUNGER GENERATION

A "Young Adult Formation" program to help young people seek to achieve a standard of virtue in their lives as faithful Christians is on TONIGHT at "The Hustle" which is a large upstairs hall in Unit 4, 4 Purdy St. Minchinbury.

The presenter is **Father Jack Green**, who was here last year and will examine: "What is Suffering and Mortification all about"?

All young people from mid-teens up to about 35yo are encouraged to come. Afterwards some tea & coffee with Father Green. That will be from **7.00pm till 8.30pm** !

If you need any more information about it, ring Mark on 0477/004-678.

**A GENERAL ANOINTING of the Sick** for the very sick & aged; **Monday** after 9.00am Mass

**The JOHNPAUL II Foundation Mass** will be celebrated here next Saturday(the 2<sup>nd</sup>) at **9.00am**. It will be offered to God to overcome the Culture of Death, such as abortion, the acceptance of SSM, euthanasia, immorality, & corruption, in our country. Prayer and true leadership is what we need, but all we can do is to pray and proclaim the truth as did Christ !

**RECOLLECTION EVENING** for men will be held at **St Aidans, Rooty Hill, next Friday** at **7.30pm** (after the 7.00pm Mass). Given by an "Opus Dei" priest. Men, it is worth getting to it because these "reminders" of your Faith will protect you in a world that is hostile to your Faith

**SEE** the new 'QR' code electronic check option on the inside doors of the Church. No signing