

Please pray for the sick in our Parish: Father Joshua, Maria Torner, Barbara Greer, Felicia Lyons, Nell McAleer, Robert (Ned) Vodovic, Mirella Wakim, Thomas,
Baptism: No baptisms this week.

Prayers and Intercessions

Priest: This past week we celebrated the Passion of St. John the Baptist, who in the midst of lust and anger, gave his life for Christ. Let us pray through his intercession for the needs of the world.

Reader: Even in his mother's womb God chose John to prepare the way for his Son.

R. Grant us the faith to know Christ, to love him, and to make him known with respect and without fear.

Reader: God, our Father, you disposed your prophet to give way before Christ.

R. Grant us the humility to let his light shine in the world so that many people may return to your sheepfold.

Reader: Lord, you called John even to die for you in the midst of imprisonment.

R. We pray especially for those who are living lives of isolation in prison: may they receive the light of repentance, and be comforted by the company of family and friends.

Reader: We pray for young people, especially those who have yet to discover the meaning of life.

R. We pray that they will know truth in and through wholesome friendships and family life.

Reader: Lord, John the Baptist, suffered for your Son.

R. We ask you to grant peace and consolation to those who are sick at this time, and we pray that we will reach out in love to them.

Reader: We remember the dead who have walked in the path of life and especially for **Nicola Bono, John O'Kane, Lexie Woodbridge, Michael Smith, Paddy O'Brien, Danica Domitrovic, Mark Oddy, Christine Green & Phillip Roy Anderson** who have recently departed this life and for **Cecil Mikola and family, Angelo Talipan & Sandra Osmialowski** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

R. Bring them to new life, cleansed from all stain of sin.

Priest: Lord God, John the Baptist gave his life for your Son, defending the beauty and truth of marriage. We pray for married couples, and especially those contemplating marriage at this time. Bless them always. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May they rest in peace: Nicola Bono, John O'Kane, Lexie Woodbridge, Michael Smith, Paddy O'Brien, Danica Domitrovic, Mark Oddy, Christine Green, Phillip Roy Anderson

Anniversary of Death: Cecil Mikola and family, Angelo Talipan, Sandra Osmialowski

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Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

31 August and 1 September 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Life is a wonderful gift, coming as it does with many joys, and of course, lot of sorrows.

I was taken aback this week, celebrating a funeral for Michael Smith, who died in his 41st year of life. He struggled with mental health issues from age 11. God rest his soul.

On the back of the funeral booklet was the following prose-poetry:

LOVE CAME FIRST

You don't move on after loss, but you must move *with*.

You must shake hands with grief,

welcome her in, for she lives with you now.

Pull her a chair at the table and offer her comfort.

She is not the monster you first thought her to be.

She is *love*.

And she will walk with you now, *stay* with you now, peacefully.

If you let her.

And on the days when your anger is high,
remember why she came, remember who she represents.

Remember.

Grief came to you, my friend, because love came first.

Love came first.

(Wild Hope: Healing Words to Find Light on Dark Days)

Donna Ashworth

We have received the report on the electrical, lighting and heating/cooling needs of St. Raphael's Church. It will operate as a scope of works. The finance committee has engaged three electricians to gauge their interest. Stay tuned.

Again, many thanks to those of you who contributed so generously to the new heating system for St. Gregory's Church. The heating system was put in on Monday and is now operational.

Blessing for the weekend,

Father Tony

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC): Tony Carey (Chair) Email:stgregsqbnpp@gmail.com

Parish Finance Council (PFC): Anne Alexander (Chair)

Entrance Antiphon

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,

that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

© Liturgy Help.

ST GREGORY'S COIN CLUB - The balance we have collected for 2024 is  \$1974.05

The receptacle for the coins is near the offertory table. Many thanks for your generosity! During the month of August we are collecting to provide assistance to the recently bereaved in our Parish.

Parish Notices

- ◆ **Father Joshua is unwell and on medical advice he is taking 2 months sick leave. Lots of prayers and love for a very speedy recovery, Father Josh, We will miss you!**
- ◆ **Mother Theresa Feast Day** will be celebrated on Saturday 31 August at 10am at St.Raphael's.
- ◆ **Bereavement Memorial Service** will be held on 16 September 2024 at 7pm in St.Raphael's followed by supper.
- ◆ **Monday Men's Group** Gathers together using SOAP (Scripture, Observe, Apply, Pray). Mondays 6.30pm-7.30pm Parish Meeting Room (Macquoid St Campus, St. Gregory's School) Contact Pat Lang (0400 466 276)
- ◆ **Parish Youth Group.** First Wednesday of every month 5.30-8pm in the undercroft at St Raphael's.
- ◆ **Baptism** - If you wish to have your child baptised in our parish, please visit our parish website at: <https://www.stgregsqueanbeyan.com/baptism> for the new procedures on how to register and book in baptisms. Registration is via the QKR app.
- ◆ **Women's Breakfast – change of date to 7th September** 8.30am at Suppetto's Jerrabomberra. All welcome. Please place your name on the list in the church for catering purposes.
- ◆ **Parish playgroup** fortnightly on Wednesday 4th September at 10.30-12 in the Parish Room at Lowe Street. Everyone welcome with your preschool age children. Parishioners please donate any spare Duplo, cars or dolls (but not Barbies) dress-ups, trains and baby toys.
- ◆ **The Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated in our Parish on the 6th September at 6.30pm and on 7th September at 11am 2024. when we welcome Archbishop Christopher Prowse to our parish
- ◆ **Lids4Kids** Remember to bring your metal and plastic bottle tops, medicine/blister packs, bread tags, wine tops and other recyclable items to the collection point for Lids4Kids near the front entry of the church.
- ◆ **Season of Creation** - This week marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs from the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September through to the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. It is an ecumenical celebration that calls us together each year to pray and respond jointly to the cry of creation. This year's theme is to "Hope and Act with Creation", taking inspiration from Romans 8:19-25. The Stations of the Cross will be prayed on the first 3 Saturdays in September at St Gregory's Church at 8:30am, to commemorate this season. Everyone is welcome.
- ◆ **Fathers' Day Appeal and Raffle-** tickets are \$1 each from the shop or from volunteer parishioners after Masses. Prize is a hamper and all proceeds go to Orange Sky Laundry
- ◆ **Parish rosters** for September-October (excluding Christmas) now ready and displayed on a stand on the Offertory table in the centre of the church and September only on the Parish website. Spare copies at the back of the church.
- ◆ **RCIA recommences on Tuesday 3 September at 615pm** in the Parish Room at Macquoid st. The Resource book has arrived in the Parish Office. It is \$40 and can be paid for in cash or online via the Parish website.