

St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The 33rd Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Saint Joseph 2021

13/14 November 2021

Year B

WELCOME BACK TO YOUR  
SPIRITUAL HOME!

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased...

*Aileen McDonnell, Jonah Iona (husband of Michelle), Valerie Joan Tye, David Morrison, Rodney McGovern, Raymond Ragoo Govindon, Jack Carey, Giuseppe Sellaro, Helen Dobson, Dominic Berinati, Norma Estrada, The Holy Souls*

We remember those whose anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

*Valerie Cobcroft, Tracy de Lyall, Roy & Mary Esplin, Bill Godfrey, Rod Halter, Tine Harris, Michael Horne, Lionel & Beb Hurst, Maureen Morrison, Martha Rojas Rojas, Sid & Sylvia Mullen, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Antonio Sorbara*

We pray for all the sick of our Parish Community and their carers.

*Especially: Gary Wood, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Jeff Greenarway, Maree Hinton, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang and also:*

*Gerry Banister, Leoni Bashall, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Val & Hugh Casey, Alice Elliott, Carmel Farnham, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Patricia Gordon, Gloria Klein, Aileen & Larry McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Marie Rayner, Tony Ryan, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm Whittaker.*

This current Sick List of names will end this week-end. If you wish for a loved one to be mentioned, please contact the Parish Office.

**Dear Parishioners,**

During the week, one of our youngest daily Mass goers (yes, they do exist!) shared with me some poignant words written by St John of the Cross (1542-1591) — one of the true spiritual giants and luminous mystics of the Church. I thought it was worth sharing here:

*“Let those, then, who are singularly active, who think they can win the world with their preaching and exterior works, observe here that they would profit the Church and please God much more, not to mention the good example they would give, were they to spend at least half of this time with God in prayer, even though they may not have reached a prayer as sublime as this. They would then certainly accomplish more, with less labour, by one work than they otherwise would by a thousand. For their prayer they would merit this result, and themselves be spiritually strengthened. Without prayer, they would do a great deal of hammering but accomplish little, and sometimes nothing, and even at times cause harm... However much they may appear to achieve externally, they will in substance be accomplishing nothing; it is beyond doubt that good works can be performed only by the power of God.”*

These words certainly resonated with me and perhaps they might also resonate with some of you. The lesson of the saints and of history has been proven true time and time again: a thriving parish is always, *first and foremost*, a prayerful parish. A devout Catholic is a man or woman of prayer! Sometimes, I think, we can fall into the habit of seeing prayer as simply the means by which we ask for things. Of course, there is certainly nothing wrong with making prayers of petition. But our prayer life should be so much more than this. For it is the gateway to God! As we grow in the spiritual life (prayer in an art that takes time and practice) we realise how indispensable it is. We begin to see our lives and the world as Christ does.

One of the first things I wanted to establish in the parish was regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Eucharistic Adoration). For now, it takes place before each morning Mass, except Mondays. (My dream would be to have Adoration all through the day and all through the night — perpetual adoration. Slow steps... But given our central location, why not be ambitious for such graces? We just need lots of committed prayers!)

During adoration, the priest places the Consecrated Host in what is called a Monstrance. We then are able to adore the Lord's Real Presence in a very special way; usually in silence which is when we are able to hear God's voice the loudest. In a world of noise and freneticism, it can take time to mature into meditative and contemplative prayer. Like everything in life, however, the struggle is worth it. And sometimes the most powerful prayer takes place when we say absolutely nothing. We simply look at Our Lord and the Lord looks at us. "Heart speaks unto heart", as St John Henry Newman said.

I well appreciate that many of you work or have family commitments during the allocated time(s) for Adoration. But if you do find yourself free, why not join us for some quiet prayer and perhaps even stay for Mass. The quickest and surest way to heaven is *daily* Mass, as Pope Pius X said. If we give God that little bit more of our time then we can be sure our various works and endeavours— at work, at home, and in our parish — will be even more fruitful and spiritually efficacious. God bless you in the week ahead!

**From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:** The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation."

**Did you Know? Candles...** Did you know: you can find out how solemn/sacred the day is by looking at how many candles are on the altar? If there are six candles lit, then it is a Sunday or a Solemnity. If there are four candles lit then you know it is a Feast Day. If there are only two candles lit then you know it is a ferial/memorial/optional memorial day. When you see a seventh candle in the middle lit, then you know the Archbishop of the diocese is the celebrant.



**MASS/DEVOTIONSCHEDULE:** Please take note of our Mass schedule and inform your family and friends.

**Mondays:** 9:15 am Mass

**Tuesdays:** 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration  
9:15 am Mass

**Wednesdays:** 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration  
9:15 am Mass

**Thursdays:** 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration  
9:15 am Mass

**Fridays:** 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration  
9:15 am Mass

**Saturdays:** 8:30 am – 9:10 am Adoration  
9:15am Mass



**Saturday Vigil: 5 pm Mass Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 5:00 pm**

**CONFESSIONS:** will be available before and after every Weekday Mass (including Saturdays). Just approach me. On Saturdays, I will be in the confessional immediately following the 9:15am Mass for as long as necessary and from 4:30 – 4:55 pm.

**BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** In light of our daily Adoration, Benediction will take place henceforth *every* Friday and Saturday immediately prior to the 9.15am Mass.

**SUNDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 5PM:** has been set aside for the State School children to receive their First Holy Communion. With the easing of restriction, there should now be space for those who attend this Mass. But, if possible, consider attending one of the other three Masses that Weekend.

**PARISH FINANCES:** I fully intend to publish our balance sheet for the last financial year once audited. We expect this to take place in the coming weeks. My gratitude to Kerry and the finance committee for their hard work on this score.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Can current members contact Fr Greg at the parish office to indicate if they are still keen to be involved. I would like to suggest a first meeting for **Tuesday 23rd November at 6:30pm.**

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** A warm word of congratulations to the children of our parish who have made their Confirmation this Weekend. Don't waste the gifts God has now given you!

**AILEEN MCDONNELL (RIP):** A longstanding and faithful parishioner of this parish, passed away on Friday evening. Please keep her in your prayers.

**"ADVENT VIRTUES" (CATECHESIS TALKS):** During the four weeks of advent, Fr Greg will give a talk on a different topic of faith and morals; contrasting the true immaterial virtues of Christmas with the false materialism that is often upheld in pop culture. A great way to reflect more deeply upon and prepare for Christmas. The talks will be held on a Wednesday night from 7pm in the Church and there will be an opportunity for questions, discussion, and, hopefully, a little prayer too!

**Wednesday 1st December:** Advent Virtue Hope. *Why the Greatest Signs of Hope Happen in Silence: The Incarnation and the Eucharist* (An instructional account of the ancient signs and symbols of the Mass.)

**Wednesday 8th December:** Advent Virtue. Peace. *From New Life to a Peaceful Death: The Myth of Euthanasia* (An exploration of the reasons as to why Catholics oppose euthanasia.)

**Wednesday 15th December:** Advent Virtue. Joy. *Why it is Great to be Catholic! Rediscovering Truth and Mercy in a Fallen World* (Followed by wine and snacks in the Church forecourt.)

**Wednesday 22nd December:** Advent Virtue. Love. *Grill a Priest (Lovingly...): A QandA with Fr Greg about Anything and Everything* (An opportunity for people to ask ANY question(s) about the faith.)

Please invite you family and friends to attend. A good way to introduce them to the "faith and reason" that is the Catholic faith!

**DAVID MORRISSON (RIP):** David was, by all accounts, an incredibly devout parishioner who truly loved his Catholic faith. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at St. Cath's on Tuesday 16th November at 10:30am.

**JONAH IONA (RIP):** My sincere gratitude to all those who attended the prayer vigil for Jonah last Tuesday night. It was a truly beautiful evening filled with God's grace. A number of people said to me afterwards that it was the first time they had come back to St. Cath's in a long time. What a blessing to bring them face to face with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I could not help but think that, even beyond this life, Jonah is already drawing souls to heaven. My gratitude to all who assisted on the night. Jonah's Requiem Mass will be celebrated here at St. Cath's at 10:30am on Friday 19th November. You are asked kindly to book: [www.trybooking.com/BVNFZ](http://www.trybooking.com/BVNFZ)



**PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND:** The fund, which I believe is quite diminished at present, helps to cover their living costs. Envelopes for this collection are available on the tables at the back of the church.

**COVID RESTRICTIONS:** We can now have 250 in the Church (though 200 at each Mass would be ideal), and singing is permitted. Masks must still be worn. Please remember to sign in.

**NOVEMBER MASS OFFERINGS:** Envelopes for this Intention are in your boxes and there are some envelopes at the back of the Church.

**CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:** I recently announced my intention to form a new committee that focuses upon the organisation of the Parish's works of mercy. I have been delighted by the response and enthusiasm with which some parishioners have responded. If you have a passion for social justice and would like to get involved, please let me know if you would like to become part of this new committee. **I would like to call a first meeting of this committee on Thursday 25th November at 7pm at the Parish Office.**

**SUPPORTING REFUGEES:** I am currently liaising with Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection about supporting refugees arriving from Afghanistan. I have offered to assist to drive them to English classes etc. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know. The parish owns a "Community Car" for such purposes.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The parish is in need of some parishioners to step forward to help with the running of the audio-visual slides at Mass. It is very easy (even for the technophobes like me). We would warmly welcome anyone interested in assisting with reading/serving at Mass. Please contact Fr Greg if you're ready and willing. Don't be tempted to leave it for someone else. The more the merrier!

**LEGION OF MARY:** Meets every Thursday morning at 10am (in the parish conference room). **New members always welcome!**

**CATECHIST CORNER:** My gratitude to our wonderful unsung heroes that are our parish catechists who teach Scripture to children in our State Schools. Thank you for all that you do to spread the faith! We are, however, in desperate need of some new catechists/heroes to come forward. Please have a think about this and be brave! Training will be provided. For more information, please contact the parish office. My gratitude to Elena for all that she has done and is still doing to co-ordinate this vital work.

"A catechist's Job is heavenly work especially when the children call you  
'Mrs Angel.'"

Margaret Morris - Kindergarten Catechist

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:** If anyone is interested in getting more involved in the wonderful work that our local Conference does, please contact the parish office for details. Please also give generously to the blue poor box at the back of the Church.

**MEDJUGORE PRAYER GROUP:** Did you know we have a wonderful group of faith-filled parishioners who gather each Thursday evening at 6pm in our church to say the rosary and some special prayers? Why not join them? Everyone is welcome!

**LIVESTREAMING OF HOLY MASS:** The parish will continue to livestream the **9:30am Mass**. Remember to like our Facebook Page!

**CATHOLIC WEEKLY:** The Catholic Weekly has been around for a long time and, I have to say, I think it has really improved in quality and substance. I would like to think that *every* family will take home a copy and have a read of some of the very fine articles. It is vital that we resource ourselves with good information in order to defend our faith in public life. At present, St Cath's only orders **ten** copies and they all go. I have now doubled that order to **twenty** but I would hope that a medium-sized parish like ours would eventually be able to distribute over **one hundred** per week! The cost is \$2. Please find your copy on the table at the back of the Church.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Christmas this year falls on a Saturday. Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation (like every Sunday). Mass Times will be as follows.

Friday 24th December (Vigil): **5pm, 8pm, 12:00am (Midnight)**

Saturday 25th December: **8:30am and 10:30am**

**There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day/no Saturday Vigil.**

Whilst I can imagine some might hesitate, we are also *obliged* to attend Mass on Sunday, Feast of the Holy Family. A good Christmas present to Jesus is to keep our commitment to Sunday Mass! I promise, the Homily will be three minutes tops! You can time me...

Mass times on Sunday 26th December will be: **7:30am, 9:30am, and 5pm**

**NEW YEARS EVE MASS:** Start the year on a spiritual high. On the 31st December, join me for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11pm to 11:45pm followed by Benediction. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, will then be celebrated at Midnight. Mass will also be celebrated on New Years Day at **12pm Noon** (not 9.15am). What better way is there to bring in the New Year of Grace, 2022, than with Our Lord!

**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Gregory Morgan  
**Presbytery:** 123 Gynea Bay Rd Gynea  
**Secretary:** Kerry Ginman  
**Office Hours:** 8:30 am - 12 noon & 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Monday to Thursday  
 Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm then closed.  
**Office Telephone:** 9525.1138  
**Email:** office@stcaths.org.au

**Website:** <https://www.stcaths.org.au>  
**Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-Gynea-108678858244000/>

**Pastoral Council:**  
**Email:** pastoralcouncil@stcaths.org.au

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:**  
 Kerry  
**Email:** safeguarding@stcaths.org.au

**Archdiocese Website and links:**  
<https://www.sydneycatholic.org>

**Sacramental Programme:**

Vicki  
**E:** sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au

**Catechist Coordinator:**  
 Elena  
**E:** catechists@stcaths.org.au

**Gynea Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)**  
**E:** musicgynea@stcaths.org.au

**Legion of Mary - Mike (President)**  
**E:** legionofmarygynea@stcaths.org.au

**Medjugore Prayer Group - Bruno**  
**E:** medumedjugorjepraye-group@stcaths.org.au

**St Catherine's Friendship Club:**  
**E:** friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au

**St Catherine Labouré Parish School:**  
**Principal: Jodie McKay**  
**School Office:** 9524.9706

**E:** info@sclgynea.catholic.edu.au  
**Website** <https://www.sclgynea.catholic.edu.au>

***20/21 November 2021 The Solemnity of Christ the King - Year B***

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5.00pm
<b>ACOLYTES AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:</b>	David Gormley Jodie McKay Lesley Newman	Phil Boland Paul Marsden Judith Rumsey	Graham Ward Michelle Anthony Peter Cobcroft	Jim Gothard Amelia Paras Cathy Bonello
<b>1ST READER: 2ND READER: PSALMIST: INTERCESSIONS:</b>	Maureen Pocock Lesley Newman Jodie McKay	Adele Greenaway Judith Rumsey James Clancy	Barbara Foster Michelle Anthony Graham Ward Carole Venier	Jim Gothard Ronald Paras Faye Reardon

**AUDIO -** Mark/ Pauline  
**VISUAL OPERATORS:**

Hugh  
 Grahame/Faye  
**NO SENIOR CHOIR**

**THE ALTAR SOCIETY:** Group 3: Kath Lloyd, Norma Wong & Chris

**IN THE COUNTING HOUSE:** Not Returning until Sunday, 4th December

**THE CLEAN TEAM:** Group C