



St Catherine
Labouré
Gymea Parish

The Solemnity of
Our Lord, Jesus
Christ
King of the
Universe

Year B

Saint Joseph 2021

WELCOME BACK TO YOUR
SPIRITUAL HOME!

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

*Kevin Cannon (brother of Don), Frank Humphries (husband of Kay), Aileen McDonnell,
Jonah Iona (husband of Michelle), Valerie Joan Tye, David Morrison, Giuseppe Sellaro,
Rodney McGovern, Raymond Ragoo Govindon, Jack Carey, Helen Dobson, Dominic Berinati,
Norma Estrada, Miriam Mitchell, The Holy Souls.*

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

*Judith Canterbury, Kevin Henry Cashman, Valerie Cobcroft, Tracy de Lyall, Roy & Mary
Esplin, Bill Godfrey, Lurline Grime, Rev. Father William Hannon,
Lean Family, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Antonio Sorbara,
Deceased Members of the Friendship Club.*

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

*Especially: Gerry Banister, Leoni Bashall, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Val & Hugh
Casey, Valerie Cobcroft, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Carmel Farnham,
Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton,
Gloria Klein, Aileen & Larry McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach,
Marié Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm
Whittaker, Gary Wood*

*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, The Solemn Feast of Christ the King, which we celebrate this Sunday, marks the end of the Church's liturgical year. I always think coming to the end of a year provides a singular opportunity to reflect a little more deeply upon our lives and then to look forward to beginning again in the new year afresh. We all need a fresh start sometimes, perhaps especially after the turbulence that the pandemic has inflicted upon our world. So, as I said last week, perhaps we can all make some good (realistic) spiritual resolutions: perhaps we might resolve to get to Mass on a weekday on occasions; perhaps we haven't been to confession for a while and want to try to make it a regular part of one's spiritual life; perhaps we feel we don't have a solid understanding of the faith and, thus, will resolve to do some study (or attend one of Fr Greg's talks); perhaps we could make an effort to pray for the soul of a friend or family member who is distant from their faith. There is so much we can do to grow in our faith in the year ahead. But let's not let another year of opportunities just slip by!

Today's Feast reminds us that, ultimately, Christ is in control. He is Lord of heaven and earth; the author and voice of all that is true, good, and beautiful. It is precisely when individuals, states, and countries try to rebel against this reality that moral chaos and confusion ensues. As Pope Pius XI, who instituted this Feast in 1925 said, "The rebellion of individuals and states against the authority of Christ has produced deplorable consequences." As I said last week in the homily, these consequences are being realised all around us today: the total disregard for dignity of all human life; the feeble and impoverishment of intellectualism at the hands of what is referred to as "woke" culture; the disrespect for the consciences and conscientious objections of men and women by the state — one could go on... But one thing I frequently encounter is just how unhappy so many people are...This is very sad!

The Feast of Christ the King inspires us to do what we can to bring true

joy back into the hearts of our fellows brothers and sisters. Jesus is Lord! Bishop Robert Barron, who is arguably one of the foremost evangelisers of the Catholic faith today (he has millions and millions of followers on social media and clearly is having a global impact), has frequently exhorted priests and parishioners to be on the look out for the opportunities to reaffirm Christ's kingship. But to do this, we must shift away from the unfortunate —but seemingly common — tendency to dumb down the faith. "I hate dumbed-down Catholicism," Bishop Barron, once said. "What do I mean by that? It puts a huge stress on the superficial, the 'banners and balloons Catholicism' as I call it. We are a smart religion. When we don't express Catholicism in a smart way, people fall away," he said. This is so true. Young people have rejected this in droves. It is worth us reflecting on where young people currently go to Mass. As one young dad in our parish said to me this week, they go to parishes/University centres where Catholicism is practiced and preached robustly, reverently, and intelligently. Young people (as do all people) desire the challenge of mysticism; not the monotony of reductivism.

DID YOU KNOW: "The **only** Christian church in existence for the first 1,000 years of Christian history was the (Roman) Catholic Church. All other Christian churches which exist today can trace their lineage back to the Roman Catholic Church. Most non-Catholic churches which exist today are less than a century or two old by comparison." <https://www.catholic.org/news/hf/faith/story.php?id=57689>

IWITNESS CONFERENCE: For young people aged 18-35. A conference started by young Catholics for young Catholics, Friday 10th December to Sunday 12th December at Stanwell tops. The event draws hundreds of young Catholics together for prayer, fun, and formation. Fr Greg will be giving a talk titled: "Rebuilding a Catholic Culture in a Metamodern World: Sex, Money, & Politics." This is an excellent event to encourage young(er) (lapsed) Catholics to attend.

<https://www.iwitnessconference.com/conference>

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: We congratulate those children who will receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time this Weekend at the 5pm Mass. Please pray for them and their families that they (and we) will never take this incredible grace for granted.

CONFIRMATIONS: We also congratulate all those children who received the sacrament of Confirmation over the four sessions this past two weeks.

AILEEN MCDONNELL (RIP): A longstanding and faithful parishioner of this parish. Aileen's funeral will take place here at St. Catherine's on Monday 22nd November 2021 at 11am.

PARISH FINANCES: I fully intend to publish our balance sheet for the last financial year once audited. The parish will be audited on the 30th November. My gratitude to Kerry and the finance committee for their hard work on this score.

PARISH FEAST DAY: Next Sunday is technically our Parish Feast Day, the Feast of St Catherine Labouré (28th November). In future years I hope we can celebrate with a parish dinner or the like. As per the custom, miraculous medals will be given to all parishioners after each of the Sunday Masses.

“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 your family and friends to attend. A good way to introduce them to the “faith and reason” that is the Catholic faith!

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!

PASTORAL COUNCIL: After consultation with current and former members, I have decided to dissolve the current Pastoral Council and reconstitute it with members of each of the parish groups. The exception to this are those I have spoken to who have expressed a desire to continue to serve on this committee. I plan to have our first meeting early next year.

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. On the 15th December, all restrictions – just in time for Christmas!

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.

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

ADVENT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Things become very busy in the lead up to Christmas such that we can quickly forget the 'reason for the season'. I would like to host a "holy week" where adoration of the blessed sacrament will run from 8:30am-8:30pm from Friday 17th-Friday 24th December. A sign up sheet will be put at the back closer to the time for people to nominate an hour to spend with Our Lord in quiet prayer. When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, Church law requires two people to be present at all times.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: It was wonderful to welcome the conference back for their first face-to-face meeting post-Covid and to hear about all the wonderful work they are doing to serve the poor and those struggling in our community. 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. There will be a special appeal for St Vincent De Paul in early December.

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.

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.



“Here is a photo showing our prayer space and some of the cross bracelets (with 10 beads to show a decade of the rosary) that the 3/4 Gynea North class made just before Easter. The kids loved doing this!”

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>

27/28 November 2021: The First Sunday of Advent

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5.00pm
ACOLYTES AND MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:	David Gormley Cathy Bonello Emma Honey	Kevin Bourke Paul Marsden Doreen Vernon	Graham Ward Carole Venier Michele Anthony Barbara Foster	Jim Gothard Amelia Paras Margaret Reid
1ST READER: PSALMIST: 2ND READER: INTERCESSIONS:	Jodie McKay Maureen Pocock Emma Honey Lesley Newman	Doreen Vernon Adele Greenaway James Clancy	Barbara Foster Michele Anthony Graham Ward Carole Venier	Ronald Paras Jim Gothard Margaret Reid

AUDIO - Mark/ Pauline
VISUAL OPERATORS:

Hugh

Grahame/Faye
SENIOR CHOIR

THE ALTAR SOCIETY: Group 4: June Frost, Kath Burns & Laurice Dooley.

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

THE CLEAN TEAM: Group D: Norm Frost & Chris Jacobs.