

St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

15 / 16 January 2022

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.

St Augustine

Dear Parishioners, It has been a while since we have seen green vestments! Liturgically, the colour green signifies that we are in "Ordinary Time" – a season that endures between the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (last Sunday) until Ash Wednesday and then again from Pentecost to the beginning of Advent. The phrase "Ordinary Time" is a little misleading as, from a faith perspective, it is meant to be a time for extraordinary growth in the spiritual life; a time to nourish our souls with deeper prayer and to furnish our minds with greater knowledge of divine truth. The following quote, taken from Nicholas Gehr's book, *The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*, and quoted in an article on this topic, gives a good insight into this theology: "*Green is in harmony with the very nature of the Church – she is a mighty tree, which lifts its top majestically toward heaven, spreads its shady branches and leaves in benediction over the earth, resplendent with the richest blossoms, bringing forth choice fruits of grace and virtue in abundance. She is the watered garden of the Lord; Christ, the good shepherd, leads his sheep to ever green pastures. The Church clothes herself in green vestments to express her joyous, lively hope of the ever lovely and eternally verdant meadows of the heavenly paradise, of the incorruptible inheritance and the unfading crown of glory in Heaven.*" I would like to reiterate again (and again) how important it is that everyone takes ownership and responsibility not just for our own spiritual lives but also for the spiritual life of this parish. On that score, my prayer is that EVERYONE will get/continue to be involved in the spreading of the Gospel in Gymea, especially by thinking creatively as to how each of us might use our specific talents to build up the life of our parish community. This will be absolutely vital as we emerge from the pandemic. So, in this new season of "Ordinary Time" (in the precarious time in which we live) let's think of how we might turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. God bless you! Fr Greg

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

John Gough, Joseph 'Joe' Hansel, Judith King, Carmel Farnham, Baby Atticus, Leoni Bashall, Mary Fitzgerald, Geoffrey Jones, Elaine Matthews, Kevin Fennell, Kevin Cannon, Frank Humphries.

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

*Ivan Bosnjak, Bernadina Carlino, Roy & Mary Esplin, Lean Family, Brian Parker, Tom Richards, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Antonio Sobara, Silvano Venier, William Von Herzog, The Holy Souls,
Deceased Members of the Friendship Club.*

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

Catherine Bassiuoni, Gerry Banister, Jean Bell, Pamela Buckley, Patricia Butler, Hugh Casey, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Trevor Gittoes, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton, Gloria Klein, Laurence McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marié Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie & Norm Whittaker, Gary Wood.

KEEPING CONNECTED: It is undoubtable and understandable that many people will be a little anxious about leaving their homes with the surge in Covid-19 infections. I know a number of parishioners who would be classified as "high-risk" are being extra cautious by watching the Mass at home. I would ask everyone in the parish to do what they can to help keep spiritually connected – not just to the parish but also to one another. If you notice that someone has been away from Mass, perhaps you might think of dropping a parish bulletin through their letter box or sending a message to let them know you remembered them at Mass. Please feel free to contact the parish office if you know of anyone who might like to have Holy Communion brought to them in their homes. More generally speaking, remember to pray for your family and friends who might be away from the practice of the faith. Each and every one of us has a role to play in spreading the faith in Gymea and beyond. If you have any ideas on this score, I would be delighted to hear them!

MEN'S BREAKFAST & FAITH FORMATION: I am delighted to announce the commencement of what I hope will be the first of many new initiatives in our parish for 2022 – a monthly men's breakfast with formation in the Scriptures and Tradition of the Church. The inaugural gathering will take place on Saturday February 19th following the 9.15am Mass. More details to come in the following weeks.

COVID REGULATIONS: Please be advised that masks are still mandated indoors (including Churches) but there are currently no density limits at Masses. I would ask that we be conscious of the need to make everyone feel safe, especially the elderly and the vulnerable. Please remember to "sign in" as per usual. **Fines apply if we breach these health orders.** Please stay home if you are feeling unwell. I will be ensuring that the Church is regularly cleaned/sanitised going forward. You might also take note that we are only considered a "close contact", and, thus, need to isolate, if we have spent more than four hours with a person who has tested positive to Covid-19.

FROM THE CATECHISM: On Man's Freedom: **1731** "Freedom is the power, rooted in reason and will, to act or not to act, to do this or that, and so to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility...Human freedom is a force for growth and maturity in truth and goodness; it attains its perfection when directed toward God, our beatitude.**1732** As long as freedom has not bound itself definitively to its ultimate good which is God, there is the possibility of *choosing between good and evil*, and thus of growing in perfection or of failing and sinning...**1733** The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to "the slavery of sin."

ON PRAYER: "Many cry to God, but not with the voice of the soul, but with the voice of the body; only the cry of the heart, of the soul, reaches God." St Augustine

TRAINING OF NEW ACOLYTES: I am delighted that a number of individuals have indicated a desire to serve as future acolytes at Mass. I would like to host a training session for new acolytes on Saturday, 5 February from 10:30 am-11:30 am. I will be contacting the new acolytes in due course. If you have expressed interest in the past, please also let Fr Greg know if you are still interested in getting involved.

TRAINING OF NEW READERS: I am delighted that a number of individuals have indicated a desire to serve as future readers at Mass. I would like to host a training session for new readers on Sunday, 30 January from 3:30 pm-4:30 pm. I will be contacting the new readers in due course. If you have expressed interest in the past, please also let Fr Greg know if you are still interested in getting involved.

FUNERAL FOR MR JOHN GOUGH: Will be celebrated here at St. Cath's on Tuesday 18th January at 2:30pm.

CATECHIST CORNER: An important meeting for all catechists will be held at the Church on Friday 21st January at 10am.

HOLY COMMUNION: If you adopt the practice of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue, I would kindly ask that you approach the priest only during this time when coming forward for Holy Communion. Thank you for your understanding.

ALTAR SERVERS: As we begin this new year, I would like to invite children/young adults (with their parents permission) who have already received their First Holy Communion to consider becoming altar servers at our Sunday Masses. Training, of course, will be provided and I would be very appreciative if some of the parents would be involved. My hope would be that this might also assist in founding a new youth group/means for faith formation for our younger children. Please contact Fr Greg if you're remotely interested. I anticipate training to take place in mid-to-late February. It would be wonderful to have a team of servers for all our Holy Week/Easter Liturgies.

BONNIE VIEW DEVELOPMENT: It is not too late to have your say. Please put your feedback forms in the box at the back of the Church or email the parish office at your convenience.

LITURGICAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The parish community would warmly welcome anyone interested in assisting with **reading/serving/acolyting** at Mass. We are also looking for anyone who might be able to assist with the **care of our gardens and for new catechists**. All are welcome to chat with Fr Greg if they are open to getting involved. I am delighted with the number of people who have already come forward, but I would love for everyone to be involved. Training will be provided in the new year.

REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN: I have had further communication with the local council about supporting refugees from Afghanistan. Besides offering our community car to help transport them to English classes across Sydney, I have also offered to support them with low-cost housing/appliances/furniture. If you think you might have something useful to pass on, please can you send a photo of the item to the parish office email and we will then forward it on to our contact at the Council. Thank you!

CORPORAL AND SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY: I would like to ask the members of the committee to meet on Thursday, 17 February to begin plan for activities in 2022.

CONFessions/BENEDICTION: 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 9:15 am Mass for as long as necessary and from 4:30 – 4:55 pm. Benediction will take place henceforth *every* Friday and Saturday immediately prior to the 9.15am Mass.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: Is a marvellous asset to our Parish. **Good news, Friday 21st January @10.00am is our 1st meeting of the year , after a long break due to COVID. Everyone must be double vaxed & a member of the Bowling club to enter. We understand some are concerned about COVID, but we hope to see as many as possible.** The Club provides a fun and faith-filled forum for senior members of our parish/local community to form new (and sustain old) friendships. New members are always welcome!

Email: friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au

LEGION OF MARY: Meets every Thursday morning at 10 am (in the Parish conference room). New members always welcome! Email: legionofmarygymea@stcaths.org.au

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! The next prayer meeting will take place on the Thursday, 13 January. Email: medumedjugorjepayegroup@stcaths.org.au

FACEBOOK PAGE: Remember to like our Facebook Page! I am very grateful to one of our younger parishioners who is running this now.

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-Gymea-108678858244000/>

You can also find recordings of homilies and talks on our Youtube Page: Just search for "Gymea Catholic Church" on Youtube.

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Priest: Father Gregory Morgan
Presbytery: 123 Gymea Bay Rd Gymea
Secretary: Kerry Ginman
Office Hours: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Monday to Thursday. Friday: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Office & Presbytery telephone: 9525.9993
Email: office@stcaths.org.au
Website: <https://www.stcaths.org.au>
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-Gymea-108678858244000/>
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kerry
Email: safeguarding@stcaths.org.au
St Catherine Labouré Parish School
Principal: Jodie McKay
School Office: 9524.9706
Email: info@sclgymea.catholic.edu.au

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Sacramental Programme:

Email: sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au

Catechist Coordinator:

Email: catechists@stcaths.org.au

Gymea Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)

Email: musicgymea@stcaths.org.au

Legion of Mary - Mike (President)

Email: legionofmarygymea@stcaths.org.au

Medjugore Prayer Group - Bruno

Email: medumedjugarjeprayegroup@stcaths.org.au

St Catherine's Friendship Club:

Email: friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au

Archdiocese: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org>

PARISH MASS TIMES.

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
	& Benediction - 9:15 am Mass



22 / 23 January 2022 The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday Evening 5.00pm
Acolytes & Ministers of Holy Communion:	David Gormley Julie Banister Matthew Delasey	Jim Gothard Paul Marsden Doreen Vernon	Kevin Bourke Carole Venier Cathy Bonello Michelle Anthony	Graham Ward Margaret Reid
1st Reader:	Julie Banister	Doreen Vernon	Carole Venier	Margaret Reid
Psalmist:	Lesley Newman			
2nd Reader:	Maureen Pocock	Jim Gothard	Michele Anthony	Graham Ward
Intercessions:	Emma Honey	Adele Greenaway	Barbara Foster	Ronald Paras

The Altar Society: Group 4:
June Frost, Kath Burns &
Laurice Dooley.

In The Counting House: Team :



May God
and our Lady
of Lourdes
care for and
protect us all

Altar Servers:

Audio-Visual Operators: Pauline/Mark Hugh
SENIOR CHOIR

The Clean Team: Group D: Norm Frost & Chris Jacobs.