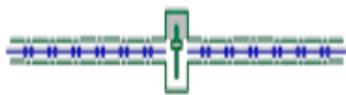


St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

22 / 23 January 2022



Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St Francis of Assisi



**Preach the
Gospel; use words
if necessary."
St Francis of Assisi**

A Catechist and Helper brings the church to the children!

Your commitment, smile, and caring attitude each week is a LOUD ACTION OF LOVE - and gives the children a sweet memory of "what Church looks like"

Your presence will definitely make a difference in these children's faith and lives.

Don't worry about your inadequacy -
no experience is necessary!

Give God your YES - God will provide for you all that you need.

**Call the parish office on 9525 9993
for more information**



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, Wilhelm 'Willy' 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:

Peter Wild, Catherine Bassiuoni, Gerry Banister, Jean Bell, Pamela Bucksey, 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, Marie Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Peter Wild, Marie & Norm Whittaker, Gary Wood.

WE NEED YOU: We are in URGENT need of at least SIX new catechists to teach Scripture in our State Schools. Following on from my homily last week whence I quoted St Mary of the Cross McKillop who said “Never see a need without doing something about it...”, I would encourage each and every one of you to pray about committing to this wonderful work in our parish. You will join an incredible group of faithful parishioners and become a – and in some instances *the only* – medium by which our State School Children hear about Jesus Christ. Do not be afraid! You will be given every assistance and the commitment is only 30 minutes of teaching time per week. I would also like to thank all of our wonderful catechists (heroes and heroines) that attended our first meeting for the year and who have recommitted themselves to another year of service. God bless you! Please contact me (Fr Greg) if you are even remotely open to the possibility.

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. Mark your calendars now!

NEW CENACLE PRAYER GROUP: Thanks to the initiative of a few parishioners, I am also delighted to announce the establishment of a new Cenacle prayer group. This will start next **Tuesday 25th January** and will then continue to take place **each Tuesday** morning following after the rosary, which commences immediately after the 9.15am Mass. What is a Cenacle? A cenacle is a small prayer group and they have existed since the Church began. It is a wonderful chance to pray some special prayers with others. A praying parish is a thriving parish!

FROM THE CATECHISM: **2168** The third commandment...“The seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD.” **2180** “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.” **2195** “Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord's Day.”

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. 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.

If you have expressed interest in the past, please also let Fr Greg know if you are still interested in getting involved.

FUNERAL FOR VONNIE SCHUTES: Will be celebrated here at St. Cath’s on Saturday, 29 January at 11:00 am. (Von died in July 2021 but only now has the family managed to be together due to COVID).

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 Gynea and beyond. If you have any ideas on this score, I would be delighted to hear them!

ON PRAYER: “You go to pray; to become a bonfire, a living flame, giving light and heat.”
St Josemaria Escriva

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. 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!

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Please be advised that after an OH&S and Insurance review, the doors leading to the garden are locked. They can be unlocked at your request. Just contact the parish office or Fr Greg. However, we ask that you do not climb up into the garden. We are exploring the possibility of putting in a small series of steps. Until such time, the doors will otherwise remain locked. Thank you for your understanding.

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. 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: legionofmarygynea@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, 20 January. **Email:** medumedjugorjprayegroup@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-Gynea-108678858244000/> You can also find recordings of homilies and talks on our YouTube Page: *Just search for "Gynea Catholic Church" on Youtube*

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.**

