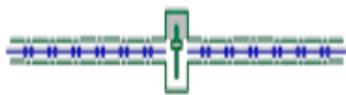


St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Catechist Sunday

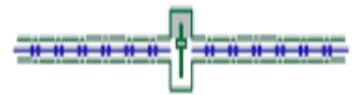
5/6 February 2022

Year C



"The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honour of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls."

St. Alphonsus Liguori



Dear Parishioners, To quote the angel who appeared to the shepherds and announced the birth of Christ, **"I bring you news of great joy!"** Archbishop Fisher has appointed **Fr Ronnie Maree** (here is a photo of him with his parents at his ordination) to our parish as an Assistant Priest. Fr Ronnie is 29-years-old and was ordained in 2019. For the past three years he has been the Assistant Priest of St Felix's in Bankstown. Fr Ronnie is a truly wonderful young man – affable, apostolic, and full of love and energy for the Gospel. I cannot begin to tell you how surprised, delighted, and excited I was to hear of his appointment. One of the key goals this year is to lay the foundations to attract young

people and young families to our parish. A big part of our future depends on this. You might take note of the new Sacramental Program that is currently being designed which, I pray, will help give catechesis to those who have had little chance for formation in the genius of our faith. I am convinced this is one – if not *the* – primary reason why so few Catholics come to Mass. Nearly everyone I have spoken to since I have arrived has said that this has to be a key focus going forward. I have no doubt Fr Ronnie will make an outstanding contribution on this score. Please pray for him and, when he arrives in our community, please do everything you can to welcome him and encourage him with warmth and affection. God bless you all! Fr Greg

In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

Norm Whittaker, Peter Wild, Nita Edwards, Maria Casamento, Trevor Gittoes, Joe Dias, Anne Crank, 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, Joe Caputo, Bernadina Carlino, Nancy Casey, Mary Cassidy, Tracy de Lyall, Roy & Mary Esplin, Imelda Guariano, Bill Godfrey, Anna & Joe Natoli, Brian Parker, Arthur Ray, Tom Richards, Harry & Vonnie Schutes, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Deceased Members of the Friendship Club, The Holy Souls.

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, 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, Marie Whittaker, Gary Wood.

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Please find herewith enclosed an abridged copy of the parish's financial return for June 2020-June 2021. Next year, I hope to have such information provided to you much sooner. However, with the delays that have been catalysed by "Covid complications", the process has been significantly slower this year. At the end of each of the Masses this Weekend, a representative of the Parish Finance Committee (the PFC) will speak for approximately three minutes. I am immensely grateful to have been blessed with such a powerhouse of qualified parishioners to ensure that the parish's financial resources are used prudently, transparently, and in keeping with our primary mission – to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to evangelise all the souls of Gynea (and beyond). Although we have a few short term issues to address (in particular, rectifying the installation of a defective solar cell system), the report affirms that our long-term position is strong, at least financially. But, as I said, a parish ultimately exists to bring souls to Christ through the gift of the Catholic faith. It is pointless having money in the bank or a property portfolio if we are not attracting souls to Church. So, please, I encourage each and everyone of you to be prayerfully creative in considering how you might be part of the mission of this parish. If you have any ideas or questions, do not hesitate to raise them with me or any of the members of the PFC. Thank you to you all, the wonderfully generous parishioners, for your ongoing support.

SELF-ISOLATING: On Thursday, I travelled down to Narooma (approx. 4.5 hour drive) with another priest to attend a funeral the following day (Friday) for the father of another priest-friend of ours. We stayed in the same place, spent most of the last two days together, and drove back together last night. The priest I was travelling with, after developing certain symptoms on the way home, tested positive last night several times to Covid-19. Although I personally feel very well, and although I feel awful about not being able to be with you for the celebration of Mass this Weekend, I checked with NSW Health and was told I was considered a "high risk" case and must self-isolate. I have been able to secure Fr William Chow to celebrate the Vigil, 7:30am, and 9:30am and Fr Emmanuel Seo to celebrate the Sunday evening Mass. I will see what I can do about Weekday Masses. Please make them welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS: At the 9.30am Mass this Sunday, we will honour several of our catechists who are receiving awards for their service. These include:

5 Years Service: Frank Tierney (2019); **10 Years Service:** Nancy Potter (2019); Basil Griffin (2022); Emanuel Bova (2022); **15 Years Service:** Adele Greenaway (2022). Please join me in congratulating these parishioners on their wonderful contribution to the life of the Church. There will be a morning tea following the 9.30am Mass.

NEW SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Please be advised that, in collaboration with a number of parishioners, I am composing a new "parish-based" sacramental program. A new aspect to this program will be to bring students from both our parish school of St Cath's and the State Schools in our area together. The program will also offer formation for the parents, many of whom have had little chance for formal catechesis. It is my hope that this might be a better way to help families reconnect to the faith/parish and to understand why it's truly the greatest gift to be Catholic. Persuasion is always stronger and more enduring than force or coercion.

NEW READERS: My gratitude to those of our new readers who were able to attend our training session last Sunday. I am particularly grateful to Adele Greenaway who gave some excellent input. I have asked Adele to become the "Co-Ordinator of Readers" and to look after the training of any future readers. For those who were unable to attend, we will be in touch shortly to arrange a time to meet.

UPDATE (REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN):

During the week, I had the pleasure to meet with Ingrid Fulton from Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection. Ingrid informed me that several new families from Afghanistan will be moving in to our area in the near future. I have agreed to continue to give Ingrid and her team first use of our Community Car for which they have been very grateful. If any one might be interested in offering to be a driver to take refugees to hospital appointments/English classes, please let me know. Please continue to send photos to the parish email address of any bedding, mattresses, white goods, furniture etc that might be suitable to furnish the homes of those who will literally arrive with nothing. Just note that it might be a month or two before we can start collecting these items from you. Thank you very much!

ALTAR SERVERS: Another encouraging sign is that approximately ten children have (with their parents' permission) already expressed a desire to serve at Sunday Masses. I am sure this number will increase once the opportunity is promoted through our school. I would like to invite all of our parish 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. 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.

NEW ROSTERS: Rosters for Altar Society and the Cleaning Teams are available on the website, for collection from the Sacristy, or they can contact Grahame to email them a copy. Thank you for your service to our parish.

FUNERAL FOR PETER WILD: Will take place here at St Cath's on Tuesday 8th February at 11:30am.

FUNERAL FOR MARIA CASAMENTO: Will take place here at St Cath's on Wednesday 9th February at 11:30am.

FUNERAL FOR NITA EDWARDS: Will take place here at St Cath's on Thursday 17th February at 1:30pm.

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!

LENTEN GROUP(S): Every year, the Archdiocese publishes a Lenten Companion. In some parishes, the practice is for groups to gather each week during Lent for prayer and discussion using the Companion. If you would like to host a group here at the parish or at your home, please get in touch. The discussion can be very informal. I will order as many copies as necessary. email the parish office at your convenience.

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: In addition to the listed times, confessions are available before and after every Weekday Mass (including Saturdays). Feel free to approach me at any time. I usually sit to the right of the altar during Adoration. I am delighted by the good number of people who come to this wonderful sacrament in our parish.

CENACLE PRAYER GROUP: Meets every Tuesday after the rosary that immediately follows 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) .

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, 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-Gymea-108678858244000/>
You can also find recordings of homilies and talks on our YouTube Page: *Just search for "Gymea Catholic Church" on You tube*

BONNIE VIEW DEVELOPMENT: Please put your feedback forms in the box at the back of the Church or email them to the parish office. Many thanks!

CENSUS: To facilitate feedback, encourage greater involvement, and to increase connectivity a census form will be distributed to parishioners in the lead up to the Lenten Season. Any thoughts/suggestions/feedback in preparation for this would be welcome.

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Priest: Father Gregory Morgan
Presbytery: 123 Gynea Bay Rd Gynea
Secretary: Kerry Ginman
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday being:
 8:30 am - 12 noon then 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
 Friday: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm then closed.
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-Gynea-108678858244000/
Parish Safeguarding Officer: Kerry
Email: safeguarding@stcaths.org.au
St Catherine Labouré Parish School
Principal: Jodie McKay
School Office: 9524.9706
Email: info@sclgynea.catholic.edu.au

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Sacramental Programme:
Email: sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au
Catechist Coordinator:
Email: catechists@stcaths.org.au
Gynea Music/Choirs - Clare (Coordinator)
Email: musicgynea@stcaths.org.au
Legion of Mary - Mike (President)
Email: legionofmarygynea@stcaths.org.au
Medjugore Prayer Group - Bruno
Email: medumedjugorjeprayegroup@stcaths.org.au
St Catherine's Friendship Club:
Email: friendshipclub@stcaths.org.au
Archdiocese: https://www.sydneycatholic.org

PARISH MASS TIMES.

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| Mondays: 9:15 am Mass | Saturdays: 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration & Benediction - 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 | Saturday 5 pm Vigil Mass |
| Fridays: 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration & Benediction - 9:15 am Mass | Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am & 5 pm |



12 / 13 February 2022 *The 6th 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: | Jim Gothard Lesley Newman Matthew Delasey | Sam Keir Doreen Vernon | Kevin Bourke Barbara Foster Michele Anthony Peter Cobcroft | David Gormley Amelia Paras Julie Banister |
| 1st Reader: | Maureen Pocock | Adele Greenaway | Moirra Loader | Ronald Paras |
| Psalmist: | Jim Gothard | | James Clancy | |
| 2nd Reader: | Jodie McKay | Doreen Vernon | Jed Loader | Julie Banister |
| Intercessions: | Lesley Newman | Adele Greenaway | Michele Anthony | Julie Banister |

Altar Servers:

Audio-Visual Pauline/Mark

GPC

Operators:

SENIOR CHOIR

The Clean Team: Group B: Paras Family.

The Altar Society: Group 2:

Doreen Vernon, Ava T Mahne & Aurora Hall.

In The Counting House:

Team :

NOT until further notice.

Thank you.



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