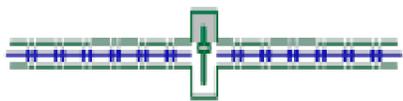


St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

19 / 20 February 2022



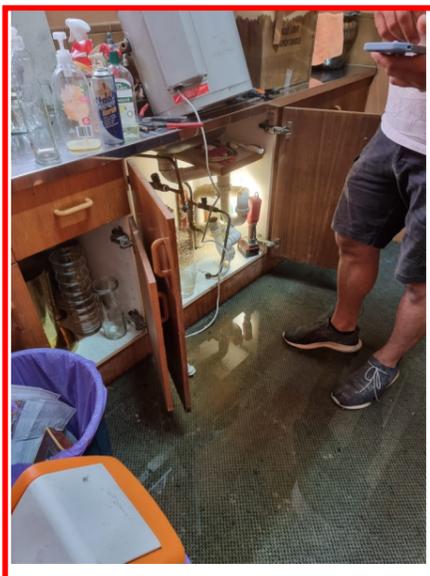
What is called generosity is usually only the vanity of giving; we enjoy the vanity more. If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Dear Parishioners, It has been another (very) eventful week in more ways than one! One rather 'inauspicious' occurrence was that the hot water tank in the sacristy exploded! Thus, it was a great shock to arrive for Mass one morning and find that the sacristy had been flooded and that the water had escaped into the Church. Thankfully, a plumber was swiftly on hand. However, he said "it was the worst case [of this] he had seen" (the tank had not been installed according to standard and was *well* overdue for replacement). The overall damage to the carpet, which still remains damp when writing this, is still being evaluated. Coincidentally, we were just looking at replacing some of the carpets damaged by the water ingress in the presbytery. I began to wonder if God was trying to say to me, "Look after sprucing up My House [a.k.a 'the Church'] first before you start sprucing up the presbytery!" The parish appears to have a growing list of maintenance issues that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. Typical to Catholic-form, I have decided to form a "**Building and**

Maintenance Committee" to (1) help me keep an eye on the maintenance of all parish properties and (2) to evaluate the different quotes received for the various projects. (Determining whether we have the requisite funds to undertake the repairs will be something that will then be brought to the Parish Finance Committee for discussion.) Looking after the maintenance of the presbytery and, most importantly, the parish church is a key part of being a Parish Priest. That said, this Church is your Spiritual Home and I have no doubt that we all want to ensure that it remains a place of beauty and prayer for generations to come. For this reason, I would like to invite those of you who might have some experience or interest in buildings and maintenance to contact the parish office to express interest in joining this new committee. I envisage that we will meet no more than four times a year. There are some wonderfully talented individuals in this parish who I know have particular expertise in these areas (expertise that, sadly, I certainly lack!). God bless! Fr Greg



In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;

Johnny Raper, 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.

We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:

Roy & Mary Esplin, Lean Family, Sid & Sylvia Mullen, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Harry & Vonnie Schutes, The Holy Souls, Deceased Members of the Friendship Club.

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

Catherine Bassiuni, 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY: The Holy Season of Lent commences on the 2nd March with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass and the imposition of the ashes will be offered at **7:30am and 9.15am**. Due to lecturing commitments that night, there will be "Distribution of Ashes" only (not a Mass) at **6:00pm**.

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES: These talks will take place in the parish Church and finish by 8pm. Due to my teaching commitments, I have had to change the time from Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings (though the first talk will take place on a Tuesday). Lent is not only a time for penance; it is also a time for spiritual growth. Committing to these talks is one excellent and convenient way to do that little bit "extra" to help that growth along.

7 pm, Tuesday, 8 March: Paul Elarde (A married man who speaks regularly and passionately about Pope John Paul II's call to the New Evangelisation by promoting the treasures of our Catholic tradition) – "Why Divine Mercy Sunday Is Like No Other Sunday."

7 pm, Thursday, 17 March : Bishop Richard Umbers (Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney) – "Finding Holiness in Everyday Life."

7 pm, Thursday, 24 March – Monica Doumit (Director of Public Policy & Ethics for the Archdiocese of Sydney and a well known writer/speaker/public intellectual) – "Women in the Church Today & Tomorrow."

7 pm, Thursday, 31 March – Speaker/Topic TBC.

7 pm, Thursday, 7 April – Fr Greg Morgan (PP of St Cath's, Gymea). From Good Friday to Easter Sunday: What do Catholics Believe About Death & Resurrection?

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES: Over the two Weekends forthcoming, (26th/27 & 5/6), a number of children will make their First Holy Communion in our parish. These children should have received this sacrament last year but, due to Covid, was unfortunately delayed. Nevertheless, it is a real joy that we as a parish can celebrate with the children and their families as they receive our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist for the first time. "The celebration of [First Communion] Mass is not just a special occasion for your family, but for the whole parish community. Your child needs to feel at home in the parish community. Therefore, ideally, your child should receive first Eucharist at whichever Mass she or he usually attends." (ACBC Website)



MEMORIAL GARDEN: Further to my comments last week, the above photo will give you some idea of what the columbarium(s) that could be installed in our Memorial Garden will look like. We are exploring the possibility of having up to 200 niches available. Of course, to reiterate, you are still welcome to just reserve space for a plaque even if you do not desire to have your ashes reserved here. I also reiterate that I will do everything possible to ensure that those whose ashes are already buried in the garden are treated with absolute reverence and respect. A Mass will be offered once a month for all those whose names are listed in the Memorial Garden. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any thoughts, concerns, or worries.

NEW ALTAR CANDLES: This week, the parish took possession of a truly stunning set of candle sticks and an equally stunning altar cross. These were very generously donated by the Morrison family. David and his wife Maureen (who have both now gone to



God) were daily Mass goers in this parish. The Mass and the Catholic faith were at the heart of their lives and, so, the family wanted to give something to promote the beauty of the liturgy in the parish they both loved so much.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Michele Anthony has very generously agreed to become the Co-Ordinator of this important ministry. First, if you know of anyone who would like a regular (usually, weekly) visit, please can you email Michele (micheleanthony@bigpond.com) or the parish office. Second, if you are currently taking Holy Communion to the sick, please let Michele/Parish Office know the details. Finally, if you are interested in assisting with this important ministry, please let Michele or I (Fr Greg) know so that we can organise a roster. You are welcome to use the Parish's Community Car for this purpose.

ACADEMIC YEAR: This semester, I am teaching philosophy at two different institutions two days a week. Until Fr Ronnie arrives, Tuesday/Wednesday Masses will (when necessary) be celebrated by a visiting priest. Please forgive me if I am a little harder to get hold of over these first weeks as I adjust to the new semester timetable.

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.

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 Archdiocese has already delivered over 100 copies for personal/group use! Email the parish office at your convenience if you are interesting in running a Lenten group.

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.

INFORMATION EVENING: Please note that an Information Evening will be held here for ALL parents wanting their children to receive the Sacraments for the first time in 2022 **on Tuesday, 15 March at 7 pm.**

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: A meeting of the PFC will be held this Tuesday at 6:30pm.

ACOLYTE TRAINING: A new date will shortly be assigned for this. Given Fr Ronnie's "expertise" in liturgy (he regularly MC's for the Archbishop) I am inclined to wait until his arrival. I'll be in touch soon.

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.

CENACLE PRAYER GROUP: Meets every Tuesday after the rosary that immediately follows the 9.15 am 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). The Legion is a truly outstanding spiritual and pastoral work and I would strongly encourage you to consider attending their meeting. Why not come and see? **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!

Email: medmedjugorjprayegroup@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-A9-Parish-Gymea-10867885824400/>
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
Assistant Priest: Father Ronnie Maree (7th March)
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: Karen
Email: sacramentalprogramme@stcaths.org.au
Catechist Coordinator: Karen
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: medumedjugorjprayegroup@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	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



26 / 27 February 2022 *The 8th 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:	Kevin Bourke Jim Gothard Matthew Delasey	Phil Boland Paul Marsden Doreen Vernon	Graham Ward Cathy Bonello Carole Venier Barbara Foster	David Gormley Amelia Paras
1st Reader:	Jodie McKay	Adele Greenaway	Carole Venier	Jed Loader
Psalmist:				
2nd Reader:	Matthew Delasey	Doreen Vernon	Michele Anthony	Moira Loader
Intercessions:	Maureen Pocock	Adele Greenaway	Barbara Foster	Ronald Paras

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

In The Counting House:

Team :
NOT until further notice.
Thank you.

Altar Servers:

Audio-Visual Operators: Pauline / Mark Hugh
 SENIOR CHOIR

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



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