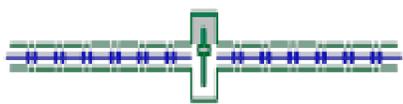


# St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish

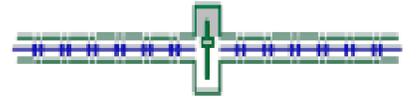
## The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

26 / 27 February 2022



**“You don’t know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, ‘Lord, I don’t know how to pray!’ you can be sure you’ve already begun.”**  
St Josemaria Escriva



**Dear Parishioners,** First and foremost, congratulations to those children who will for the first time (but, please God, not the last) receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This is always a momentous day in one’s journey to Eternal Life. To the parents and families of the children, please know you will always be very welcome in this parish. Along with the First Holy Communicants, you will be at the forefront of my prayers at every Mass – asking Our Lord that He will inspire you to grow in your own relationship with God, here and now, but also to be open to doing all you can to nurture the faith of your children. As I said before, what more could we want for those we love than the gift of eternal life? Please get in touch with me if I can do anything whatsoever to support you in your life of faith, even just for a casual chat.

Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, marks the beginning of Lent. Over the coming weeks, the Committee for the Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy will provide some creative ideas in the parish bulletin as to how we can really enter into the grace and mystery of this holy season. Look out for further details. Moreover, as you can see, there are a number of events being held in our parish during Lent. Please consider getting involved and making an extra effort to do something to feed your soul and fuel your faith.

Following my notice in last week’s bulletin, I am very grateful to the five or six individuals who have said they are willing to form part of a new Building and Maintenance Committee. I will be in touch over the coming weeks. It is great to see so many parishioner stepping forward to get involved in the parish!

I am delighted to announce that Genevieve Le, a joyful young youth leader and talented musician, has agreed to come and assist in our Parish to help start, develop, and promote youth ministry. Gen will be in the parish principally on Sundays and will begin by singing at the 5pm Mass on Sundays and will assist in the running of the new Sacramental Program. Gen will begin next Weekend and I anticipate that she will be present at most of the Masses in order to get a “feel” for our parish community. Please welcome her when she arrives. God bless you all! 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:**

*Ken Connolly, Roy & Mary Esplin, Bill Godfrey, Peter Mounce-Stephens, Sid & Sylvia Mullen, Anna & Joe Natoli, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Harry & Vonnie Schutes, Deceased Members of the Friendship Club, The Holy Souls.*

### **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, Melina Jrieco, Gloria Klein, Laurence McDonnell, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marié Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Marie Whittaker, Gary Wood.*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES:** It is a real joy that we as a parish can celebrate with the children (and their families) who will 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) A number of other children will make their First Holy Communion at several of the Masses next Weekend. Please remember to pray for them and their families – that they will grow in love for Jesus Christ and their Catholic faith.

**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.

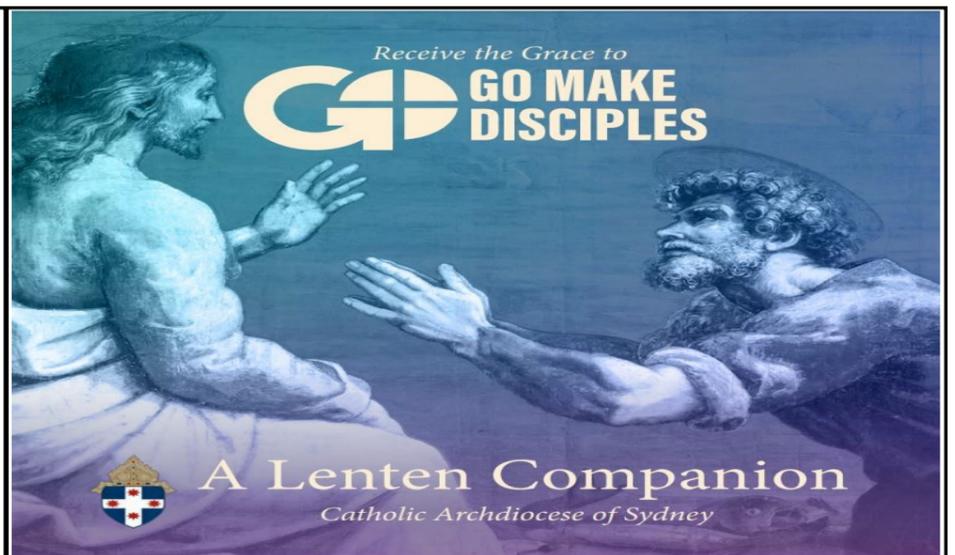
**7 pm, Tuesday, 8 March: Paul Elarde (A married man who speaks regularly and passionately about Pope John Paul II's call to the New Evangelisation by promoting the treasures of our Catholic tradition) – "Why Divine Mercy Sunday Is Like No Other Sunday."**

**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, Gympie). From Good Friday to Easter Sunday: What do Catholics Believe About Death & Resurrection?**



**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. The books are now available at the back of the Church. Thus far, Adele Greenaway has offered to host a small discussion group on **Thursdays during Lent at 10:30am** in the Church. Michele Anthony has also kindly offered to lead another group (time TBC). A great way to meet other parishioners and to grow in faith.

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK:** I am tremendously grateful to those of you who have already started to take Communion to the Sick. Michele Anthony has very generously agreed to become the Co-Ordinator of this important ministry. 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. If you are interested in assisting with this important ministry, please let Michele or I (Fr Greg) know so that we can put you on a roster. You are welcome to use the Parish's Community Car for this purpose.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:** Also, if the pandemic continues to ease, and, please God, more people are inclined to return to attending Sunday Mass in person, I am keen to reach out to those who are alone and might require transport to get to Mass on Sundays. Although the Community Car is an elevated 4WD (and, sadly, not a Community Bus), which makes it quite difficult and potentially unsafe for the infirm and elderly to get into (a number of people have expressed concern on this score), if you do know of anyone who is in relatively good health and would like to be brought to Mass, please let the Parish Office know. Similarly, please get in touch if you would be open to being a driver. Following a previous discussion at the PFC, the issue of insurance is still being explored. Nevertheless, expressions of interest are welcome at this stage.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** 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. It would be wonderful to have a team of servers for all our Holy Week/Easter Liturgies.

**UPDATE (REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN):**

We are still waiting to hear on whether Sutherland Shire Refugee Connection have found a place to store items for refugees from Afghanistan. As soon as we hear anything, we will inform you. I have agreed to continue to give Ingrid and her team first use of our Community Car during the week 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 suitable items to furnish the homes of those who will literally arrive with nothing.

**SHROVE TUESDAY (PANCAKES):** To celebrate Shrove Tuesday on the 1st March we encourage families to make pancakes together! Please feel free to take a brochure, and a paper plate that our Family Educator has shared with our parish - this is an activity that the children from St Catherine's are doing on Tuesday the 1st March and would benefit all our parish families as well. This brochure not only shares the recipe for Pancakes, it explores the different ingredients needed to make pancakes and how each ingredient symbolises a certain characteristic of our Catholic faith! Details at the back of the Church.

**NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST & BUSH WALK:** The inaugural men's breakfast was a great success with up to thirty men turning up. Stay tuned for details about the next Men's Breakfast in March as well as info about a Bush Walk in April!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Will be held after the Friday morning Masses during Lent and, on a trial basis, will also be held again at 7pm on Friday evenings.

**NEW RCIA PROGRAM:** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will be conducted for the first time in this parish this year. At present we have three adults who want to become Catholic at Easter. I hope they will be prepared and received at the Easter Vigil as per the traditional custom. Please pray for them.

**PARISH SCHOOL ENROLMENT OPEN DAYS:**

Will take place on Tuesday 15th March 4:30pm-6:00pm; Sunday 20th March 10:30am-11:30am; Tuesday 22nd March 4:30pm-6:00pm. Please email the school office to book your tour: [info@sclgymea.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@sclgymea.catholic.edu.au)

**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.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** [medumedjugorjprayegroup@stcaths.org.au](mailto: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. 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  
**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.**

<b>Mondays:</b> 9:15 am Mass	<b>Saturdays:</b> 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration & Benediction - 9:15 am Mass
<b>Tuesdays:</b> 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass	
<b>Wednesdays:</b> 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass	
<b>Thursdays:</b> 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration 9:15 am Mass	<b>Saturday 5 pm Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Fridays:</b> 8:30 am - 9:10 am Adoration & Benediction - 9:15 am Mass	<b>Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:30 am &amp; 5 pm</b>



5/6 March 2022 *The 1st Sunday of Lent - Year C*



	Saturday Vigil 5.00pm	Sunday 7.30am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday Evening 5.00pm
<b>Acolytes &amp; Ministers of Holy Communion:</b>	Jim Gothard Cathy Bonello Matthew Delasey	Sam Keir Paul Marsden Doreen Vernon	Graham Ward Michele Anthony Carole Venier Peter Cobcroft	David Gormley Amelia Paras
<b>1st Reader:</b>	Emma Honey	Doreen Vernon	Barbara Foster	Ronald Paras
<b>Psalmist:</b>	Lesley Newman			
<b>2nd Reader:</b>	Jodie McKay	Adele Greenaway	Carole Venier	Jed Loader
<b>Intercessions:</b>	Maureen Pocock	James Clancy	Michele Anthony	Moirra Loader

**The Altar Society: Group 1:**  
 Maureen Huckstep, Jacqueline Parker, Jeanette Brennan & Maria Black.

**In The Counting House:**  
**Team :**  
*NOT until further notice.*  
*Thank you.*

**Altar Servers:**

<b>Audio-Visual Operators:</b> Pauline / Mark	Hugh	Faye & James
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**SENIOR CHOIR**

**The Clean Team: Group A:** Mary Vee Tondi, June Digby, Hazel & Larry Lange.



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