

## St Catherine Labouré Gymea Parish



# The 6th Sunday of Easter

*“Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you,  
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.”*

21 / 22 May 2022

John 14:27

Year C

**Dear Parishioners,** A very (!) special welcome to the Kindergarten children and their Year 5 “Buddies”, along with their parents/guardians/carers, who are attending the 5pm Vigil Mass this Weekend. A special word of welcome to those Kindergarten families who are new to our Parish/School Community. I do hope you feel very much at home here. If you have been away from the practice of your faith or are still searching for answers to the greatest questions of life, please know that Fr Ronnie and I would be delighted to support you in any way we can. As I said, no matter where you are in your faith journey, you should always feel welcome and at home here at St. Cath’s. Catholicism is the Church of Jesus Christ, the bedrock of our civilization, and the greatest defender of the truths of human life and human flourishing. In a world where so few are actually prepared to be “critical thinkers”, our commitment to the faith and to the Gospel has never been so important. As Saint Pope John Paul II famously observed: “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth...” Reason that is unenlightened by faith quickly devolves into tyranny, emptiness, and social confusion. It would be remiss of me not to mention the very sad passing of euthanasia in this State. This is a clear instance where the rhetoric of “free-choice” has clouded clarity and right judgment. As I mentioned in my talk on this topic last December, every country where euthanasia has been legalised on the basis of giving people “the right to die peacefully” has progressively led to the involuntary deaths of the most vulnerable in society. For instance, to quote the observation of one Oxford medical journal, two years after legislation for euthanasia was passed in the Netherlands, “the Royal Dutch Medical Association revealed that it had asked the government to propose new rules to facilitate the killing of ‘disabled children, the severely mentally retarded and patients in irreversible comas.’ To foreign observers who have not been following developments in the Netherlands, these news stories may have seemed shocking. Modern, liberal democracies are supposed to protect the mentally challenged and physically handicapped, not kill them. For those who have been paying attention, however, these latest news reports merely represent the next logical step in the Netherlands’ quixotic attempt to regulate euthanasia.” Our Archbishop observed that, under current legislation, Catholic hospitals and nursing homes are now forced to let “Kill Teams” into their buildings. So much for *freedom* of conscience! It is thus not unforeseeable, therefore, that the Church will have to withdraw from healthcare altogether. Please pray for our politicians this Weekend especially. God bless! Fr Greg

### **In your charity, please pray for our recently deceased;**

*Laurence “Larry” McDonnell, Helen Rosario, Rita Bernadette Pickard, Ederina Fabian, Margaret Hammel, Anita Reid, Martin Tonitto, David Wright, Frank Murray, Biagio ‘Bill’ Parrino, Terry Halls, Arthur Ollenrenshaw, Suzanne Miller, John Keys, Michael Malvern, Rex Watson.*

### **We remember those whose Anniversaries we commemorate at this time:**

*Gary Allibon, Cec & Mary Baz, Jim Borg, John Bradley, Joe Caputo, Jim (James) Casey, Paul Charman, Fred Cobcroft, Kevin Fennell, Tracy de Lyall, Roy & Mary Esplin, Mary Garland, Fr. Peter Gillam, Bill Godfrey, Rod Halter, Amy Humphries, Felicity Ketel, Lean Family, Kathy Little, Lionel & Bev Hurst, David Morrison, Sid & Sylvia Mullen, Joe Sammut, John Vincent Sidgreaves, Antonio Sorbara, Betty White, Fr. Reg Wilson (1st Anniversary) 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, Helen Bridges, Pamela Buckley, Patricia Butler, Hugh Casey, Elaine Coughlan, Patricia Cutcliffe, Alice Elliott, Dorothy Fraser-Bell, Jeff Greenaway, Patricia Gordon, Maree Hinton, Melina Grieco, Gloria Klein, Doug Maybon, Evie Morgan, Anthony Morris, Julia Quach, Marié Rayner, Tony Ryan, Evelyn Spiteri, Yin Kwan Tsang, Lindy Webb, Maree Whitaker, Gary Wood.*

**EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION:** Sunday 19th June is the great **Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ**. I am hoping to arrange a Eucharistic Procession after the 9:30 am Mass down the high street of Gymea finishing with Benediction outside the Church. **Moreover, on the same day, the Archdiocese of Sydney is restarting the annual "Walk With Christ" through the City.** This is always a marvellous event that gives tremendous public witness to our faith. I am told that if, say, 80 to 100 parishioners are interested, the Evangelisation Office will pay for a private bus to transport parishioners to and from the event. It would be wonderful if over 100 parishioner from Gymea would join Fr Ronnie and I in attending. I anticipate a departure time from Gymea at 12:45pm and we should return to Gymea around 4.30pm. **If you are interested in coming along with us on the free bus, please sign your name on the sheets at the back of the Church.**



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES HAVE COMMENCED:**

Last weekend, we launched the new Sacramental Program in this parish with the commencement of formation for those children who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in June. Father Greg led the first session with the parents/guardians, and invited them to reflect on what determines/influences how they value their use of their time. Why is it, for instance, we are so ready to be "entertained" and yet so disinclined to pray? How can we make time to consider what are, in fact, the greatest questions of life? At the same time, the catechists and primary school teachers began the formation of the children in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We ask you, every parishioner, to remember to pray for the children and their families.

**WE NEED YOU (CATECHISTS):** Unfortunately, two of our catechists have had to withdraw from teaching. Please think about stepping forward. Gymea Bay Primary School will commence Scripture classes from Term 2, Week 2—Thurs 5th May & is in need of a teacher. **If you wish to volunteer for any of the Parish's groups/services, please contact the Parish Office.**

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (GYMEA):**

To formally inaugurate the CWL in this parish and to begin to think/plan about the year ahead, the members (and women interested in joining) are invited to a **wine and cheese social/discussion hosted by Fr Greg at the presbytery on Friday, 10 June at 6:30 pm.** The evening will commence with a short-time of prayer in the church, asking Our Lady's intercession on this new group in our parish. Please meet in the Church. Please **RSVP** to Fr Greg directly either by ringing the parish office or via email:

gregory.morgan1987@sydneycatholic.org

**NEXT "LECTURE" SERIES:** Fr Greg will be giving a three-part series of talks for the Archdiocese titled **"Simple Suggestions to Spiritual Obstacles: Rekindling our Prayer Life after "Pandemic Procrastination"**. These talks will be delivered at St Cath's on three consecutive Thursdays (**21 & 28 July, and 4 August**) from 7.30 pm to 8.45 pm; but people across the Archdiocese will join us via Zoom.

Please mark the dates in your diary. The working titles for these three talks are as follows:

- **Lecture One, 21 July:** *Silence – The Antidote to Spiritual Blindness & the Pathway to Truth*
- **Lecture Two, 28 July:** *Self-Knowledge – The Antidote to Spiritual Deception & the Pathway to Prudence*
- **Lecture Three, 4 August:** *Self-Sacrifice - The Antidote to Spiritual Acedia & the Pathway to Joy*

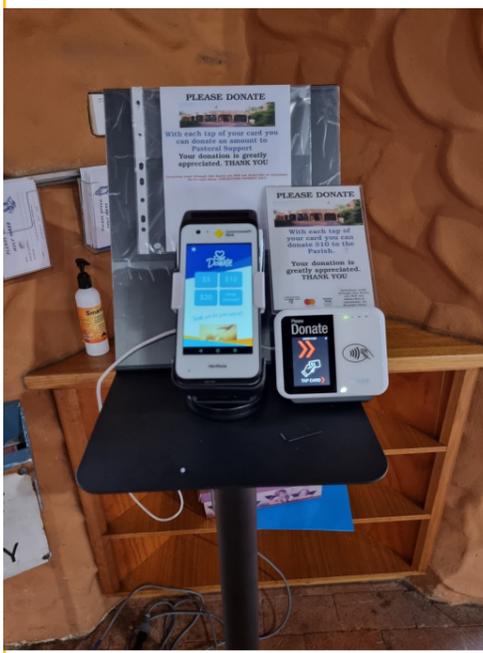
The original lecture series on **'Reclaiming the Power of Language'** will likely be held in the city at a date TBC.

**To Register please go to:** [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** For Cleaning of the Church, pews and carpet, etc. and also to assist the Altar Society ladies preparing the Sanctuary - both groups work to a monthly roster with 5th Sundays doubling up. This is a wonderful way to make a positive contribution to our parish and to meet a small group of wonderful parishioners. Please speak to Fr Greg or contact the Parish Office.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The next Men's Breakfast will be held **Saturday, 18 June (the third Saturday of each month)**. It is a great opportunity for men to catch up over a hot breakfast before hearing an inspirational talk on a topic of our Catholic Faith! This weekend we heard a talk on The 4 Last Things. Next months topic is to be confirmed.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our inaugural, though henceforth annual, "Labouré Lecture and Parish Dinner" will take place on **Friday, 25 November**. A distinguished guest speaker will be invited. Details to follow but please save the date in your calendars now.



**NEW TAP & GO MACHINES:** You may have noticed the new “Tap & Go” terminals as you enter the Church. In a (post–)pandemic world, less people are carrying cash. The machine to the left goes to the “First Collection”, which covers the upkeep of the parish clergy, housekeeping expenses, and cleaning

costs. At the recent clergy conference, it was mentioned by the Vicar General that over 80% of parishes in Sydney do not have enough income in the First Collection to cover such expenses. Thus, it is the surplus of the 20% that make up for the short-fall. I would like to hope that our parish, given its tradition of generosity, might be able to alleviate some of that burden. The terminal to the right goes to the “Second Collection”, which supports maintenance/refurbishment costs, insurance, and staff salaries, and charitable/catechetical works of the parish. Thank you for being such a generous parish!

**ADORATION:** Remember, our parish has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available every day Tuesday - Saturday from 8:30 am - 9:10 am.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** A number of parishioners have commented on how wonderful it is to see children serving at Mass again. Fr Ronnie has very graciously trained the first group but we would always welcome some more volunteers. If your child has made their First Holy Communion, perhaps you might discuss with them whether they would like to serve at Mass, regularly or on occasions. Please approach for Fr Ronnie or myself (Fr Greg) if interested.

**NEW PARISH “APOLOGETICS” GROUP:** (What is “apologetics”? Etymologically, the word means to “speak in defence” – in this case of the Catholic faith. Perhaps more than ever, knowing how to defend your faith in public and appreciating the intelligence of the Church’s teachings is a grave imperative.) Our first apologetics series will be hosted on **Wednesday evenings, beginning Wednesday, 1 June**. The topic is “Christ and the Eucharist” and will run for 10 weeks. The evening will begin at 7pm with a video presentation followed by time for discussion and will finish around 8pm. All are welcome. A special invitation is extended to our RCIA candidates.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Our Parish is blessed to have a longstanding Legion of Mary group, which meets every Thursday morning after the 9.15 am Mass. We are always on the look out for new members. Please get involved (or just come and see!) and do pray for our Legion members too! They do such wonderful works in honour of Our Blessed Mother.

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB:** Next Friendship Club Meet the third Friday of the month at Gynea Bowling Club. New members welcome – email them (*address on back page*) for more information....

**MEDJUGORJE PRAYER GROUP:** Did you know we have a wonderful group of faith-filled parishioners who gather each Thurs evening at 6pm in our church, to say the Rosary & pray & reflect on Our Lady’s messages to the world. Email them (*address on back page*) for more information or simply come to a Meeting. Why not join them, everyone is welcome!

**PASSING OF THE EUTHANASIA BILL (STATEMENT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP):**

It is truly a dark day for New South Wales. I am deeply saddened that the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2021 has passed the NSW Parliament. The disturbing nature of this legislation is compounded by the way the debate over amendments was conducted. All amendments put forward by those who would seek to make this deadly regime even a little bit safer were rejected. That no meaningful amendments were accepted speaks to a ‘winner takes all’ approach by the proponents of this bill and reveals an ugliness that has invaded our politics. This does not bode well for the protection of our most vulnerable citizens. The 57th Parliament of NSW will be remembered as having the shameful record of passing two of the most anti-life pieces of legislation that exist in Australia, and indeed around the world. If a civilisation is to be judged by how it treats its weakest members, the NSW parliament has failed miserably and has set a dark and dangerous path for all posterity, determining a new and disturbing definition of what it means to be human...Despite our disappointment, our fight for life does not end with this vote. If anything, it begins anew. We must redouble our efforts to care for those who are victims of the ‘throwaway culture’ and instead rebuild a culture of life and love in this state.

**CONFESSIONS:** A reminder that confessions are available **before & after every weekday Mass** including Saturdays) Please approach Fr Ronnie or myself if you wish to receive this Sacrament.

**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

**Parish Priest:** Father Gregory Morgan  
**Assistant Priest:** Father Ronnie Maree  
**Presbytery:** 123 Gynea Bay Road, 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:** [www.stcaths.org.au](http://www.stcaths.org.au)  
**Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/St-Catherine-Labour%C3%A9-Parish-Gynea-108678858244000/>  
**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiprf67dfGwEtt6hduzy7Og>  
**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  
**Youth (Music) Coordinator: Genevieve**  
**Email:** youthministry@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

**MASS TIMES**

**Monday - Saturday 9.15 am**  
**Saturday 5 pm Vigil Mass**  
**Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am & 5 pm**

**CONFESSION TIMES**

**Mondays - Saturdays**  
 Before and after every weekday Mass (including Saturdays)  
**On Saturdays 4:30 pm - 4:55 pm**

**ADORATION TIMES**

**Tuesdays - Saturdays**  
 8:30 am - 9:10 am  
 (Fridays and Saturdays:  
 9:00 am Benediction)



28 / 29 May 2022

*The Ascension of the Lord - 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 Jodie McKay Emma Honey	Sam Keir Graham Ward Doreen Vernon	Kevin Bourke Cathy Bonello Barbara Foster Peter Cobcroft	David Gormley Amelia Paras Margaret Reid
<b>1st Reader:</b>	Jim Gothard	Adele Greenaway	Moira Loader	Ronald Paras
<b>Psalmist:</b>	Natasha Metlege		Jed Loader	
<b>2nd Reader:</b>	Margaret Morris	Doreen Vernon	James Clancy	Margaret Reid
<b>Intercessions:</b>	Emma Honey	Graham Ward	Barbara Foster	Ronald Paras



**The Altar Society: Group 4:**

June Frost, Kath Burns & Laurice Dooley.

**Altar Servers:**

**Audio-Visual Operators:** Pauline / Mark Natalie Hugh Faye & James  
**SENIOR CHOIR**

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



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