

CATHOLIC PARISH AUBURN



St John's Primary School
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Administrator: Fr Richard Dumba
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WhatsApp Group: message 0424299903
Facebook: @SJGparish

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Juliana Chestney

Trinity Catholic College
(02) 9749 1919
16 Alice St, Auburn NSW 2144
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Sunday, 25th February 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



**2ND SUNDAY
OF LENT**

"This is my beloved
Son, with whom I am
well pleased; listen
to him." - Mt 17:5b

WEEKEND MASSES: **Saturday** Vigil Mass 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses 8:00am, 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES: **Monday – No Mass, Office Closed**
Tuesday to Saturday 9.15am

HOLY ROSARY: Tuesday to Saturday 8.30am
Sunday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 9:40am and 4.30pm And by appointment

BAPTISMS: Sundays after 10am mass and by appointment

WEDDINGS: By appointment (minimum of six months' notice required)

ANOINTING MASS: **2nd Saturday** of the month (March, June and September)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: **1st Saturday of the month at 4pm**
& Each Thursday 5pm – 6pm

PARISH SECRETARY: Thursday & Friday 9am to 3pm
(Mass Intentions & news items for the bulletin must be left at Presbytery by 12pm Wednesday)

This Church is equipped with an induction loop for the hearing impaired.

LET US PRAY FOR

Recently Returned to the Father: Margaret Parker, Maizie De Cruze, Miko Markovic, Crispin Francis

In Loving Memory of: Tony Smiroldo, Lavorato & Smiroldo Families, Lily Fernandez, Joseph Fernandez, Donald Rowland, Pippo Ranieri, Margaret Lena, Tony Ranieri, Norman Chestney, and Taniela Funaki
"May their souls through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Prayers for the sick: Olivia Sheilds, Beth Tudehope, Jessica Tungul, Antony Lisica, Denise Mackie, Navjot Singh, Roger Shi, Mary Zheng.

"Mother of God, Health of the sick, Refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted. Pray for them"

Roster for 1st Sunday

<u>Time</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Saturday 5pm	Jackie Daniel Nicole Daniel	Tony Allan
Sunday 8am	Nina Saulekaleka Karen Abood	Elia Saulekaleka
Sunday 10am	Velonika Vakauta Illuminada Manalili	Sione Anasi



Project Compassion Sunday 24 & 25 February



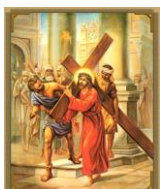
After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. **Please donate to Project Compassion.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING If you have any concerns you wish to raise for the council to discuss, please do so via email at auburncatholicchurch@gmail.com or approach Fr Richard. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, 29th February at 7pm.**

ST JOHN OF GOD FEAST DAY, 19th ANNUAL PARISH REUNION To celebrate the feast of our parish we will have a solemn **mass at 10am** followed by a morning tea on **Sunday, 10th March 2024.** We look forward to seeing you all in McDermott House to come together as one. Please bring a plate to share. For any inquires please contact Marian Kelly.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT A reminder, that at St John of God, we celebrate Adoration **each Thursday, 5-6pm.** Let us come before Christ in His entirety: His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to contemplate His awesomeness and to lovingly adore Him. When we do this, we are in His Real Presence. The sacrament of reconciliation is available during this time.

LENTEN GROUPS Lenten Reflection Groups will be held each Tuesday in the hall throughout Lent starting at **7pm.** Booklets will be available at the first session. All welcome.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Friday at **9.40am and 7pm** during Lent, come and participate in one of the most powerful devotions of the Catholic Church, the Stations of the Cross. As we walk in this journey of Lent, let us walk with Jesus on his way to Calvary. The church, as usual is open from 7am to 7pm so you can come and pray the devotion privately or as a group in your own time.



We congratulate and thank Jingmin Zhu & Xuan Zhang for bringing their child, Xiran Zhu, to be baptised into the Catholic Faith on 25 February 2024. Your child's Baptism is definitely a time for celebration and joy. May the light of Christ be with them always.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18: The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Rom 8:31-34 God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God.

Gospel Acclamation Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel Reading Mark 9:2-10 This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

REFLECTION

Thomas Watson (1620 -1686) once said, "Afflictions add to the saints' glory. The more the diamond is cut, the more it sparkles; the heavier the saints' cross is, the heavier shall be their crown ~ If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble."

In the gospel, Peter, James & John not only witness Jesus' transfiguration. They themselves also undergo a transfiguration. Some change occurs within them so they are able to hear God's voice announcing Jesus' identity (beloved son) and also the clear terms and conditions for their own discipleship (listen to him).

In the Transfiguration, God reveals to Peter, James & John the glory that is given to us when we give everything to God. It is to strengthen the faith of these three disciples. They were about to witness the events that would lead their Master's suffering and death. Jesus wanted them to have a foretaste of the glory that awaited him – after his suffering and death - in the resurrection.

Undergoing a significant change is usually both exciting and frightening. Depending on who you are and depending on the nature of the particular change being faced, the balance between excitement and fear can tip one way or the other. One of the saddest things to see is the person who desperately needs change, and who knows it and wants it badly, but who is paralysed by the fear and unable to make the change.

The season of Lent is meant to be our time of transfiguration. The Father's command "Listen to Him" is an essential dimension of our transfiguration. And finally, in giving everything to God, like Jesus, we truly become God's beloved sons and daughters.

Catechism of the Catholic Church: A foretaste of the Kingdom - the Transfiguration

555 - For a moment Jesus discloses his divine glory, confirming Peter's confession. He also reveals that he will have to go by the way of the cross at Jerusalem in order to "enter into his glory". Moses and Elijah had seen God's glory on the Mountain; the Law and the Prophets had announced the Messiah's sufferings. Christ's Passion is the will of the Father: the Son acts as God's servant; the cloud indicates the presence of the Holy Spirit. "The whole Trinity appeared: the Father in the voice; the Son in the man; the Spirit in the shining cloud."

A MESSAGE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our weekly bulletin is sponsored by:



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We acknowledge the Watergora people of the Darug Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which St John of God church stands. We pay our respects to the past, present, and emerging Watergora generations