

CATHOLIC PARISH AUBURN



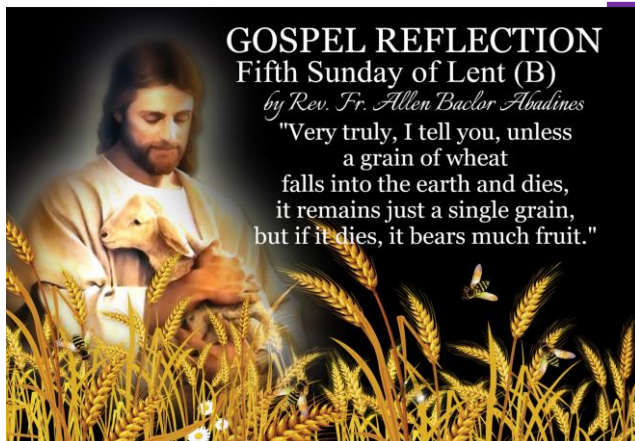
St John's Primary School
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Website: <https://stjauburn.syd.catholic.edu.au/>

Administrator: Fr Richard Dumba
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(02) 9749 1919
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Sunday, 17th March 2024
Monday, 18th March 2024
Tuesday, 19th March 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
St Patrick, bishop
Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary



GOSPEL REFLECTION Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

by Rev. Fr. Allen Baclor Abudines

"Very truly, I tell you, unless
a grain of wheat
falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain,
but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lords Supper at 7pm
Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 10.00am
Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm
Easter Vigil (Saturday) at 7pm
Easter Sunday at 8am and 10am

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)

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM: Please see our home page on our website for details

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: Priscilla San Pedro Burges, Edward Catania, Beth Tudehope, Robert Antonio M. Aquino

In Loving Memory of: Louis Naudi, James Doumit, Tony Shomar, Dominic Wang, Maria Huang, Joseph Wang, Maria Yu, Maria Zhang, Maria Wang, Lourdes Wang, Fr Raphael D'Cruz, Norman Chestney, and Taniela Funaki

"May their souls through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

Prayers for the sick: Latifi Joseph Bishara, Susan Abood, Eileen Smith, Rikki Doumit, Olivia Sheilds, Jessica Tungul, Antony Lisica, 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 4th Sunday

<u>Time</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Saturday 5pm	Denise Hall Mary Días	Tony Allan
Sunday 8am	Mary Kleist Barbara Mucha	Ruben Baluyot
Sunday 10am	Gilda Kazzi Joey Wang	Nicole Daniel

PARISH NEWS: Sacramental dates 2024

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – Years 6 & above The Confirmation Sacramental Program at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 6 upwards. The preparation will happen in the 2nd term of school. **Parent Information Night** - Wednesday, 8th May at 7pm in the Church. Celebration of **Confirmation: Saturday, 15th June at 5pm in the Church.**

SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION – Year 3 & above The Sacrament of First Reconciliation at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 3 upwards. The preparation will happen in term 3 of the school. **Parent Information Night** – Wednesday, 31st July at 7pm in the Church. Celebration of **First Reconciliation: Wednesday, 4th September** at 7pm in the Church.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION – Year 4 & above The First Holy Communion Sacramental Program at St John of God parish is available for Catholic children in year 3 upwards. The preparation will happen in the 4th term of school. **Parent Information Night** – Wednesday, 23rd October at 7pm in the Church. Celebration of the **First Holy Communion – Sunday 24th November at 10am Mass.**

SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY On **Tuesday, 19th March**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At St John of God Parish we will celebrate at 9.15am mass. Everyone is welcome.

ST JOHN OF GOD PARISH FEAST DAY Thank you everyone for attending our 19th annual morning tea to celebrate St John of God Feast Day on Sunday 10.3.24. It was a lovely celebration with Past and Present Parishioners and some ex-students. We look forward to celebrating our 20th annual morning tea on **Sunday the 9th March 2025** and ask you to SAVE THE DATE. God bless you all from Marian Kelly on behalf of the Pastoral Council

LENTEN GROUPS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS We have Lenten Reflection Groups will be held each Tuesday in the hall throughout Lent starting at **7pm**. Also, **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 in your own time.



CONGRATULATIONS On behalf of the parishioners of St John of God, we congratulate and thank Joyce San Miguel for binging her child, **Jayla Angelique San Miquel**, to be baptised

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY OR OLIVE BRANCHES If you have palm or olive branches, would you kindly donate a portion for our Palm Sunday celebrations. Please place them in the tub in the church foyer. **Thank you.**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED If you are able to assist as an usher during the event of the Way of the Cross on Sunday, 17th March 2024 from our church to St Peter Chanel, Berala, please let Father Richard know as soon as possible by contacting him in person.

BUS PROVIDED During the event of the Way of the Cross on Sunday, 17th March, a bus will be made available for those who cannot walk the whole route.

PROJECT COMPASSION APPEAL – As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. **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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34 **The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9 **He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.**

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel Reading John 12:20-33 **If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

REFLECTION

The Temple at Jerusalem was so famous, that on feast days, not only the people near, but many Gentiles from distant countries came to worship in it; as that eunuch of Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, mentioned in the Acts. Some “Gentiles” had been converted to the faith of the Jews. Though they did not observe the Jewish laws, they were accepted in the Temple of Jerusalem where a courtyard, separate from that of the Jews, was reserved for them.

In this week’s Gospel, among those who had come to worship were some Greeks (called Greeks because of their language) who wanted to see Jesus. Why did these people want to see Jesus? Were they merely curious? Did they want to experience first-hand the mighty deeds Jesus had become known for? Whatever their motivation, Jesus’ response invites them to behold his deepest mystery: the cross.

Through Christ’s death on the cross, he has opened the doors of salvation to all – “And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.” Through his death on the cross, he gives true life. He is the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and produces much fruit. And being a Christian, being a disciple of Christ, entails following him and sharing in his very destiny.

The sign of the cross is one of the most important and one of the most frequently used of the sacramental. It is the sacred sign first taught to the feeble fingers of the child at its mother’s knee; it is the sacred sign traced by the faltering fingers of the dying Catholic. From birth to death it is the holy sign, the holy ceremony that continually reminds the Catholic of the source from which all spiritual blessings come - the cross.

We make the sign of the cross for a number of reasons: To remind us of the Blessed Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit; To remind us that the Son of God died on a cross for all people; To stir up our faith; To profess our faith – it identifies the Catholic; To strengthen our hope since by making this sacred sign we express the hope that through it all blessings will come to us; and also to kindle and feed our charity.

Making the sign of the cross recalls the limitless love of Him who died upon the cross. We determine to return love for love.

Faith Matters: The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy address the needs of peoples’ minds, hearts, and souls. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- Admonish the sinner. (Give correction to those who need it.)
- Instruct the ignorant. (Share our knowledge with others.)
- Counsel the doubtful. (Give advice to those who need it.)
- Comfort the sorrowful. (Comfort those who suffer.)
- Bear wrongs patiently. (Be patient with others.)
- Forgive all injuries. (Forgive those who hurt us.)
- Pray for the living and the dead.

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