



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS  
*Chatswood Catholic Parish*



21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

22 August 2021 – Year B/1

**WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS  
WE PRAY FOR:**

**Sick:** Michael Antarakis,  
Luigi Agnese, Xavier Nitin Dholakia

**Deceased Anniversary:** Irene Ward

**Recently Deceased:**  
Jann Alice Purcell

**Church -** Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts,  
Chatswood

**Parish Office -** 94 Archer Street,  
Chatswood, 2067  
PO Box 1446, Chatswood, 2057

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hours' emergency call 0473 046 906  
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[chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au)

**Parish Office hours:**  
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4pm  
(Closed for lunch 1-1.30pm)

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(Liaison with Aged Care Facilities)



This passage of John's Gospel concludes his discourse on the presentation of Jesus as the bread of life. Now the followers must make a personal decision whether to continue following Jesus and believing he is the bread of life come down from heaven. Jesus allows his words to speak for themselves rather than candy coating his message so people will not leave. Those who are struggling with what Jesus says about eating his flesh and drinking his blood say, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (6:60). Because they cannot believe, they leave and return to their former lives.

Jesus then asks the Apostles if they also want to leave. Peter answers for the whole group: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe. . . ." (6:68-69). Peter's powerful statement tells us that Peter understands what Jesus has been teaching: those who believe Jesus is the Son of God come down from heaven, and who are fed by his body and blood in the Eucharist, will experience salvation through Jesus. Peter professes for the Twelve that the Apostles have come to believe this. By following Jesus and listening to him preach, the Apostles gain the knowledge and insight necessary to believe in him. God also plays a role in this process by gracing the Apostles and assisting them in believing.

The challenge this passage presents to the members of John's community in the first century—for whom the Gospel was originally written—is the same challenge offered to us today: accepting Jesus as the sacramental bread of life. Jesus's words to the Twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" (6:67), have haunted all Christian disciples since that time. Jesus's words appear to have been addressed to us. Peter's response is one of hope: "You have the words of eternal life" (6:68). Today we have the same hope in Jesus—that eternal life springs forth from his words.

## Within our Parish

### VINNIES VIRTUAL SLEEPOUT

Dear friends, Team Chatswood Parish are joining the Vinnies virtual sleepout to shine a spotlight on homelessness and raise much needed funds for Vinnies Central Coast, an area servicing many of the most vulnerable people and families in NSW.

On Friday 27th August:

\*Fr. David,

\*Fr. Joey, and

\*Deacon Aldrin

will be sleeping on the couch, in the yard, or in the car.

Click "Give Now" and support the team to support those in need.

<https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-central-coast-region-2021/chatswoodparish>



Thank you for your generosity,

God Bless,

Team Chatswood Parish

Fr. David, Fr. Joey, Deacon Aldrin,  
Deacon Kevin



### THE PARISH PASTORAL AND MISSIONARY COUNCIL

met on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August online as the covid-19 outbreak continues around Sydney and the state. Our meeting provided an opportunity to share our own experiences of lockdown and the effect on our lives and families, and we are conscious that there may be many in our parish and community who are very isolated with little support. If there is anyone in the community you are aware is feeling isolated, please let the parish office know so a call or outreach can be organised.

Our prayerful reading of an extract from Fratelli tutti Chapter One: Dark Clouds Over a Closed World gave us pause for reflection. Pope Francis draws our attention to fragmentation even before this pandemic, how we're losing our sense of fraternity. He suggests that it is hard to imagine that this global disaster is unrelated to our way of approaching reality - our claim to be absolute masters of our lives. We are encouraged to take this moment to think no longer in terms of 'them' but 'us'. We are also urged to recover a shared passion to create a community of belonging and solidarity. Otherwise, the global illusion that misled us will collapse leaving anguish and emptiness. Pope Francis also shared the notion "every man for himself" will rapidly degenerate into a free-for-all that would prove worse than any pandemic.

Hence our parish is encouraged to continue to connect with, help and think of each other and our wider community. Our parish website now has an on-line gathering section listing reflective talks and ways we can get together online. Meanwhile, it is wonderful to see parishioners and ministries continue to meet (virtually) and support one another, and we pray this continues. And we thank God for our church's centenary celebrations on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August!

*The Parish Pastoral and Missionary Council*



**He is a double-minded man,  
unstable in all he does.**

心怀二意的人，在他一切所行的路上，  
都没有定见。

## From Fr David

Dear friends

We come to the weekend of the centenary of the opening of our church. What a remarkable moment! Through all that time our church has stood as the sign of the Church that we are, each of us an essential building block. Our church is the sign of living community of faith which we are. And, day after day, for 100 years it has also enabled this to be so. We can be proud not only of our magnificent building, grateful for all those whose work and generosity have made it so, but also thankful for the Catholic witness of all those thousands upon thousands of people who have been brought together by this beautiful structure. May all of us lift our spirits in a prayer of thanksgiving on this great occasion and even though we cannot gather in person, hopefully, many will join us on Friday evening at 8pm for a special online Prayer Vigil, and for our centenary Mass on YouTube on Saturday at 11am; [https://youtube.com/channel/UCKfvfKCA\\_03\\_5\\_pgolkbaPQ](https://youtube.com/channel/UCKfvfKCA_03_5_pgolkbaPQ). We are also looking at some other ways in the coming weeks to celebrate this great occasion.

It has been remarkable how many people are able to come together online for various opportunities. Last Sunday, 94 screens were on our Zoom recitation of the Rosary for the Feast of Mary's Assumption. However, we are conscious that some of our senior members do not have access to the internet and we are looking at ways to stay connected with them too. If you know of anyone in this situation, can you be sure to let the parish office know their names and addresses?

Thank you to all those who are sponsoring Fr Joey, Deacon Aldrin and myself for the Vinnies Sleep Out on Friday 27 August. We have already raised almost \$4000 through your generosity! Let's see if we can break the \$5000 mark! Just visit the website at <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-central-coast-region-2021/chatswoodparish>

Regretfully, the situation with the pandemic continues to be of major concern. It is vitally important that we are vaccinated. As I have indicated before this is an ethical responsibility. Last Wednesday Pope Francis himself urged the same, saying "Vaccination is a simple but profound way of promoting the common good and caring for each other, especially the most vulnerable. I pray to God that everyone may contribute their own small grain of sand, their own small gesture of love." It is now clear that in the coming months there will be significant restrictions placed on those who are not vaccinated. So, if we want to work in many different contexts, and to gather again as a community, vaccination will be our only way.

As we come to the end of this week, our prayer is with the people of Afghanistan and Haiti. The fall of Kabul demonstrates a failure to learn the lesson of history. To win a war is one thing; to win the peace another. Military power and might may attain certain objectives but they cannot build a society. The future belongs to those who know how to cultivate peace, which is an altogether much harder thing to do. This is what is at the heart of The Beatitudes, Jesus' charter for the social order. As we pray with the events of this last week, let us heed the lesson.

*Fr David*

### **DO YOU SEE THE FACE OF JESUS IN THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY?**

We are a group of parishioners seeking to represent the hands of Jesus in our community by partnering with other churches and not-for-profits in actions of support for the homeless, the hungry and the heartsore. By joining us you will have the opportunity of providing practical assistance to those in need, building relationships with social organisations in the area and receiving leadership training from the Sydney Alliance, of which our parish is a member. Please contact Gail Gill, chair of the Social Justice committee [Gail.Gill@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:Gail.Gill@bbcatholic.org.au) or Jo Karaolis [jokaraolis1@bigpond.com](mailto:jokaraolis1@bigpond.com)



## **Rebrand of CWF to Pastoral Works Broken Bay August Appeal**

At this time, we appreciate any support that can be given, no matter how big or small. Our ministries continue to operate and provide vital services.

We encourage donations at your parish website or [www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pastoralworks).

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Collection envelopes for Masses will be available when parishes re-open.

**Thank you for helping to renew and rebuild lives.**

**Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community**



Unplash/Steve Brinzer

# Cry of The Earth Cry of The Poor

The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22 *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, was launched recently for distribution on Social Justice Sunday on 29 August.

In the Statement, the Bishops invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis' invitation to a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven *Laudato Si'* Goals.

The Statement especially encourages Catholic families, communities and organisations to: listen to the First Nations; reflect on the theological foundations offered in *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, and plan their next steps towards the *Laudato Si'* Goals.

## BE PART OF A SHARED READING AND REFLECTION GROUP

Zoom Groups will be offered on:

**Tuesdays from 10.30 to 11am**

31 August; 7, 14 and 21 September

**Thursdays from 8 to 9.30pm**

2, 9, 16 and 23 September

Register with Gail at [gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au)

A zoom link will be provided by return email

## ACCESS A PDF COPY OF CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR NOW.

Go to:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>

Hard copies will be available in the parish later in August. At the above website, as well as a PDF of the Bishops' Statement, you will find a range of supporting resources which include a narrated version of the Statement in a podcast format.



## *A Home for All? Renewing the Household of God*

When Pope Francis announced an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation at the beginning of an annual Season Creation in 2015, he wrote: *"This time for creation offers individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation; to thank God For the wonderful handiwork he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."*

Each year, the Season of Creation begins on 1 September and concludes with the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. The theme for 2021 is *A Home for All? Renewing the Household of God*.

### AN INVITATION TO BE PART OF A PRAYER AND REFLECTION GROUP

If you would like to come together with others over zoom for prayer during the Season of Creation, contact Gail [gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au)

Two groups are planned:

**Fridays from 10.30 to 11.30am**

3, 10, 17 and 24 September

**Wednesdays from 8 to 9pm**

1, 8, 15 and 22 September

