



OUR LADY OF DOLOURS Chatswood Catholic Parish



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
31 January 2021 – Year B/1

WITH OUR LADY OF DOLOURS WE PRAY FOR:

Deceased Anniversaries:

Francis Ward, Ivan Zaknich

Recently Deceased: Roger Gregorio

Church - Cnr Kirk & Archer Sts,
Chatswood
Parish Office - 94 Archer Street,
Chatswood, 2067

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hours' emergency call 0473046906
www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Parish Office hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm
(Closed for lunch 1-1.30pm)

Rev Dr David Ranson VG (Parish Priest)

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Blog: davidranson.com.au

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Fr Joey Frez (Assistant Priest)

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Deacon Kevin Hale (Deacon)

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Coordinator)

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(Pastoral Care Worker)



In today's gospel (Mark 1:21-28) Jesus and his disciples reach the fishing village Capernaum, and there he teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Here he is presented as one with a teaching that is new. Here also we find one of the characteristically Marcan structures, where an episode is sandwiched between two parts of another construction. In this case, two synonyms indicate the "sandwich" of this device in v.22 and 27, but the first is weakened in our Lectionary's translation: *exoplēssōnto* (from *ekplēssō*) became "made a deep impression on them" rather than the more direct "they were amazed/astounded", with its counterpart *ethambēthēsan* (from *thambeō*), "they were astonished". They are first amazed by his teaching, and their astonishment is confirmed when his authoritative teaching is demonstrated in action, the sandwich's filling. In it is a man with an unclean spirit, and such unclean spirits are the first to recognize Jesus for who he really is. But when the man speaks, it is in the plural, "What do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us?" This sometimes trips people up into thinking of the man as one possessed by many demons who fear what Jesus will do to them. But even the order Jesus gave, "Be muzzled!", is in the singular. So, who is the "us" the man speaks for?

Spanish Mass - We are planning to start a Spanish mass every 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm. Our first mass will be on February 20. If you would like to help organise this, please contact Fr Joey Frez at 94109037/94109027

Estamos planeando comenzar una Misa en español cada tercer domingo del mes a las 12pm. Nuestra primera Misa será el 20 de febrero, si le gustaría ayudar a organizarla por favor contactar al Padre Joey Frez a 94109037 / joey.frez@bbcatholic.org.au

Catechist Corner

We hope each one of you had a great holiday even if in a very different way. A few weeks from now the Catechist Ministry of Chatswood Parish will begin a new, fruitful and meaningful school year of 2021 in State Schools. We look forward to meeting your child in their Catholic Scripture Classes. This year, we are anticipating a bigger number of students and we need additional helpers/assistants.



If you are one of those people who can get involved in sharing their faith to all the children in State Schools, please have a look at these schedules and see if you can be a part of this rewarding ministry. You don't need to

be a teacher to do this. All you need is the desire and willingness to give up one hour a week of your time on:

- Tuesdays at 11:35 AM to 12:40 PM in Mowbray Public School
- Wednesdays at 9:15 AM to 10:20AM in Roseville Public School
- Wednesdays at 12:00 PM to 1:05 PM in Castle Cove Public School
- Thursdays at 9:00AM to 11:00AM in Artarmon and Chatswood Public School

All resources and trainings will be provided. These training sessions are free and can be completed via zoom.

If you think you would like to get involved or you would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact Maricel by phone 9410 9029 or email at

maricel.malapira@bbcatholic.org.au



COMING EVENT FOR THE CATECHIST MINISTRY:

What: Term 1 Catechist Meeting
When: Monday 8 February 2021
10AM to 12PM
Morning tea starts at 9:30AM
Where: Magnificat Meeting Room

Please RSVP to Maricel

Maricel.malapira@bbcatholic.org.au
or 9410 9029

MERCY COLLEGE NEWS

We are pleased to welcome to the Mercy community Mrs Brenda Timp, appointed as our new College Principal. Mrs Timp previously worked as Assistant Principal at Mater Maria Catholic College in Warriewood. We also welcome our new Director of Mission Ms Lisa Kemmis, who joins us from Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta.

We welcome all staff new and existing to the start of Term 1, 2021 [on Wednesday 27th January](#).

[On Thursday 28th January](#) with the assistance of our Year 10 students we will welcome our Year 7 students and their families. We ask that you keep these young women and their families in your prayers as they commence their Mercy journey. Students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 12 return to school [on Friday 29th January, 2021](#).

If you are looking for a secondary College for your daughter, we are welcoming prospective families to our College Open Day [on Sunday 7th March, 2021](#), or contact the College Office on 9419 2890 for more information.

Mercy Catholic College Chatswood - Over 130 years of inspiring young Catholic women. For more information visit www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au/



Twice a year, we run a preparation program for 6-12 old children who would like to be baptised. This program includes the parents and child attending preparation sessions together in a small group with other children and families.

Our next Kids' Baptism Program will begin on **Sunday 7 March 2021**. If you would like to know more about this program, or would like your child to join, you can download the information and enrolment forms from our parish website.

<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood>

- Click on **Sacraments**
- Click on **Baptism** and then **Kids' Baptism**

Complete the enrolment form and email to angela.hague@bbcatholic.org.au



What is the Catholic Church doing to ensure children are kept safe? All clergy, staff and volunteers who work with children now do annual safeguarding training as well as having a current Working With Children Check. To find out more see www.bbcatholic.org.au/chatswood/our-parish/safeguarding

From Fr David

Dear friends

As you may have heard, the NSW Government has reviewed its level of restrictions last Wednesday. As from this weekend, we will be able to now receive as many people in our church as the 4sq metre principle allows. This means that we can now increase our number at each Mass from 100 to 150. Masks remain mandatory for places of public worship and choirs are limited to 5 without congregational singing. The Government has indicated that the restrictions will be further eased in two weeks' time if things remained contained. We certainly hope this will be the case.

At the beginning of December, Bishop Anthony wrote a Pastoral Letter to our Diocese outlining his vision and priorities for our local Church. Regretfully, it did not seem to arrive at our Parish! We now have copies available, and I encourage us to take one and spend some time with what Bishop Anthony shares with us. Maybe some of our parish groups would like to take it and use it for shared reflection? We will return to it, too, during our forthcoming Season of Lent.

It has been a joy for me to continue to learn of the many activities and groups that makes our parish so strong. Into the mix, we would like to introduce a Mass in Spanish once a month, given the number of people with South American background. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Joey Frez. We would like to schedule this at 12noon on the 3rd Sunday of the month, which means our first one would be on Sunday 21 February. This will mean that we have Masses in three cultural groups: Filipino, Indonesian and Spanish – a great testament to the multicultural vitality of our community. With this introduction, going forward, we will celebrate Baptisms on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

We welcome back to school all our students and teachers. It is extraordinary that we have over 2000 students at our precinct each day. This last week I have been meeting the various Principals and leadership teams of our schools and planning the year ahead. We have quickly identified a real need that Mercy College has in respect to its severe limitations in bringing its students together. Once a month, therefore, the girls will come to the church for assembly. This will take place between 10am and 11am, after the morning Mass and Rosary.

On these days, **just once a month**, we will, however, delay Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11am, continuing with Benediction in the usual way at 12 noon and Mass at 12.15pm. We will give notice the weekend before each of the occasions. The first one will be this coming Wednesday, 3 February. I am grateful for your understanding and for the way in which we can generously accommodate the College which is operating under very significant constraints. I am confident that there will be a grace for the girls becoming more familiar with our church.

Don't forget, too, to spread the word about our new youth initiative, led by Deacon Aldrin – a group for those in Years 7-9! This will mean that we have three groups for young people: one for those in years 7-9, one for those in years 10-12, and a young adults group.

May the first week of the school year be one of blessing for all!

Rev Dr David Ranson PP VG

ALL SCHOOL REFERENCES

Please drop your school reference form requests into the Parish Office with a stamped envelope addressed to the school in question, and these will be handed to Fr David Ranson. Fr David will be in contact with you if needed. Parent Connect Gatherings for 2021 are on hold at this time.



NEW YOUTH GROUPS

Beginning this year, we will have three separate youth groups: one is for Year 7 to 9; the second is for Year 10 to 12; and the third is for over 18. Deacon Aldrin will talk about these new youth groups at this weekend's Sunday 9am Mass.

WITHIN OUR DIOCESE

Women of the Well - Upcoming Retreats for 2021

February 19th-21st – St Joseph's, Kincumber

February 26th-28th, The Hermitage, Mittagong

June 18th-20th, St Joseph's Kincumber

Cost \$100 (accommodation, meals and materials included). Through the financial support of Edmund Rice Ministries, we are able to offer this heavily subsidised rate until June 20th 2021. For more information or to book a retreat, please contact us through our website: www.womenofthewell.com.au or phone Trisha Casey if you have any queries, on 0417 216 917.

Coming in 2021



Women & the New Testament

To celebrate International Women's Day which falls on 8 March in 2021, Dr Michele Connolly rsj will come to our parish to offer a presentation on Women and the New Testament which will also include space for conversation and questions.

SATURDAY 6 MARCH
2.30 TO 5.00PM
MAGNIFICAT ROOM

The focus is on women, but this is for everyone - women and men! Two facilitated opportunities for conversation before 6 March will be offered, dates & times TBC.

Contact Gail

gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au OR 9410 9021



Sr Michele Connolly rsj is a Sister of St Joseph of Lochinvar in the Hunter Valley. She taught in Catholic Secondary Schools of the Maitland Diocese, including a stint as an R.E. Co-ordinator, for about ten years. She studied theology at YTU Melbourne, and in the USA, graduating in 2008 with a PhD from GTU, Berkeley, CA. Michele's principal area of interest is the Gospel of Mark. In 2018 her doctoral thesis was published by T&T Clark, under the title, *Disorderly Women and the Order of God: An Australian Feminist Reading of the Gospel of Mark*. Michele has taught in Sydney since the 1990s at CTU, Hunter's Hill and since 2001 at Catholic Institute of Sydney, Strathfield. Michele speaks regularly at seminars and conferences on the role of Scripture in our lives.



Living Laudato Si in 2021

Laudato Si' is part of the body of Catholic Social Teachings which inspire conversion of hearts and minds to Jesus' mission and lead to working for justice in our world. Pope Francis calls us to live out our encounter with Jesus Christ in the world around us. During this year, parishioners read *Laudato Si'* in small groups and some have come together to plan for ways that we can all live *Laudato Si'* in our every day lives. In 2021 look out for:

- ✦ Lenten Carbon Fasting
- ✦ Table Talks on Refugees & Asylum Seekers with Jesuit Refugee Services
- ✦ Supporting our Parish Social Justice Projects: StreetWork; Sister Parishes of Bourke & Brewarrina and Maubara Orphanage in Timor Leste
- ✦ Celebrating the Season of Creation in September with prayer, reflection and action
- ✦ Together, finding ways to live more simply in our parish and homes

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF
PLANNING FOR LIVING LAUDATO SI' ?
CONTACT GAIL: gail.gill@bbcatholic.org.au
9410 9021

*An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. Pope Francis *The Joy of the Gospel* 183*