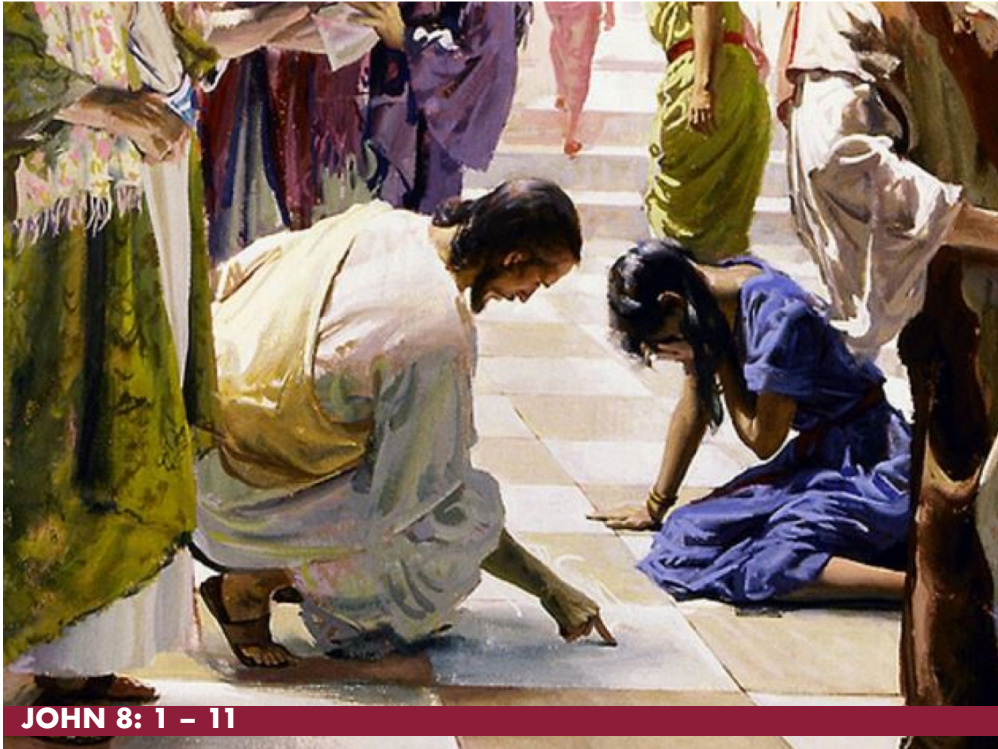




# St Patrick's Parish Gosford

The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford,  
St Francis of Assisi Somersby & Holy Trinity Spencer  
Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.



JOHN 8: 1 – 11

## A LENTEN PRAYER - LORD OF LIGHT

Lord of light, come shine your truth upon my life in this season of Lent. Light into the dark corners of disillusionment, where I hide beneath the comforts of food and drink. Light upon the fears and worries I seek to quell with control and routine. Light within the shadowed areas of hurt that cast shades of resentment and unforgiveness in me. Light bright across my thoughts, seep into my heart and come awaken my hope. May your eternal light reveal heavens beautiful promises and bring a peace that surpasses understanding. Amen.

[https://www.living-prayers.com/events/lenten\\_prayers.html#ixzz5k5jnzmbg](https://www.living-prayers.com/events/lenten_prayers.html#ixzz5k5jnzmbg)



## FR FRANCIS JORDAN SDS

You should be men of faith and, therefore, also have great confidence. Hope springs from faith. If you wish to do great things for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, then you need great, powerful faith and boundless confidence. Fr Francis Jordan is credited with many inspirational quotes.



## POPE FRANCIS' APRIL 2019 INTENTION

Universal - Workers in War Zones

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

## ST PATRICK'S YEAR OF TRUST

"O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.

(By St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556)

- Ask God to forgive you.
- Trust that God does forgive you, and accept his mercy.



## PLEASE TAKE ME HOME

I am your copy of St Patrick's Bulletin.

I can sit in a place of prominence and be available for your family and guests to read during the week.

## FACEBOOK PAGE



St Patrick's  
Parish Gosford

Log into Facebook and like our "St Patrick's Parish Gosford" page to ensure you are notified of the latest news and events.

A warm welcome to our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us this weekend at St Patrick's Parish.

76 York St East Gosford NSW 2250

Tel: 4325-1042 ♦ email: [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au) ♦ Web: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford)



## ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD

### PASTORAL CARE

**Fr Grzegorz [Greg] Skulski SDS**

Parish Administrator

Email: [greg@sds.org.au](mailto:greg@sds.org.au)

### SALVATORIANIANS

Society of the Divine Saviour

<http://www.sds.org.au>



### PARISH OFFICE

**Secretary:** Colleen Kirk  
 Mon – Thurs: 8:30am – 4:30pm  
 Friday (fortnightly) 8:30am – 1:00pm  
**Children's Liturgy & Sacramental Programme Coordinator:**  
 Margaret Eadie 4325 7817

**Catechists' Coordinator:**  
 Alain Corne  
 Email: [saintpatsccd@acs.net.au](mailto:saintpatsccd@acs.net.au)

Wed: 9:00am – 1:00pm  
 Thurs: 9:30am – 1:30pm

**Youth Ministry:** Matthew French  
 Ph: 0411 792 587

**Media Coordinator: Tom Croll**  
 Friday: 9:00am – 2:00pm  
 Email: [tcroll@photom.com.au](mailto:tcroll@photom.com.au)

### VOLUNTEER ROLES

**Office Admin:** Denise Jay  
 Judith Myers  
 Friday: 9:00am – 3:30pm

**AV Presentation:** Bob Smith  
 Tilly Timp  
 Peter McLean  
 Greg McBride

**Bursar:** Ros Van Lierop

**Caretakers:** Ron Begg  
 Tom Brown  
 John Malicki

**Gardeners:** Trevor Byrne  
 Joyce Byrne  
 Victor Camilleri

**Seniors' Ministry:** Barbara McCarthy  
 Ph: 4322 0250

### School Principals

St Patrick's Primary: Mrs Cheryl Walsh 4325 1159  
 St Joseph's College: Mr Tony McCudden 4324 4022  
 St Edwards College: Mr Mark Bonnici 4321 6400  
 St Peter's College: Mr Tim Hilderbrandt 43512344

### Christian Brothers' Community

Frederick Street, East Gosford  
 Br Peter Hester cfc [Community Leader]  
 Br Denis Cusack cfc  
 Br Rod Shoebridge cfc

**CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM – 4:30PM.**

### STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES

**Gosford:**  
 Monday: 9:00am Thursday 9:00am  
 Tuesday: 9:00am Friday: 12 noon  
 Wednesday: 11:30am Saturday: 9:00am

### WEEKEND MASSES

**Gosford:**  
 Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm  
 Sunday: 7:30am Children's Liturgy: During  
 9:00am 9:00am Mass Each Sunday of  
 6:00pm School Term.

**Somersby, 30 Lutana Road:**

Saturday Vigil: 6:30pm

**Spencer, Wiseman's Ferry Rd:**

1st Sunday Monthly: 4:00pm

### OTHER MASSES

**Filipino Mass 2nd Sunday Monthly:** 12 noon

**Korean Mass Monthly: [Enq: Peter 0409-508-123]** 6:00pm

### ADORATION IN OUR CHURCH

Before the Blessed Sacrament

Mon: 8:30am-9:00am Thur: 8:30am-9:00am  
 Tues: 8:30am-9:00am Fri: 12:30pm-3:00pm  
 Wed: 11:00am-11:30am Sat: 8:00am

### RECONCILIATION – 1ST RITE

**Gosford:**  
**Mon-Thur:** during Adoration  
 1st Friday of Month Prior to Mass 11:30am  
 Other Fridays 12:30pm  
**Saturday:** 8:30am and 4:30pm.  
**Sunday:** 7:00am and 5:30pm

**St Francis of Assisi 30 Lutana Road, Somersby:**

Saturday after Vigil: 7:30pm

### CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

After weekday Masses and 3:00pm Friday

### ROSARIES

**Weekday**  
 Monday, Tuesday Thursday 8:05am  
 Wednesday 10:35am  
 Friday 11:35am

**Saturdays Monthly** 8.05am: 1st – For Priests & Religious.  
 8.05am 3rd Saturday – For Mothers & Abortion.  
 8.05am 4th Saturday – For Persecuted  
 Christians and their Persecutors.

### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

Last Wednesday of each Month at 12 noon

### ADORATION AT BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Located on Chapel Lane at the Admin Centre  
 Monday to Thursday 8:30am – 3:30pm  
 Friday 9:00am – 3:30pm

### GROUP MEETINGS

**Bible Study Lectio Divina:**  
 Mondays at 9:30am twice monthly,  
 Wednesday at 10:00am in the Jordan Room.

**RCIA: in Admin Centre** 7:30pm Tuesdays.

Contact the Parish Office to register interest.

**menALIVE:** 7:30pm commencing with Mass  
 1st Tuesday of Month

**Cancer Prayers:** 2:00pm Last Thursday Monthly  
 in Jordan Room

**Grief & Loss, Prayer & Support:**  
 1st Thursday Monthly 2pm in Jordan Room

**Craft Group - Friday each week of School Term**  
 9:30am – 12:00pm

## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

### MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Mass Time & Place	Intention
Sun 7/4	7:30a Gosford 9:00a Gosford 6:00p Gosford	+ Remembrance Lloyd Woods + Parish Intentions + Anniversary Ken Caves
Mon 8/4	9:00a Gosford	+ Remembrance Colin Woods
Tues 9/4	9:00a Gosford	+ Anniversary Harry Remfry
Wed 10/4	11:30a Gosford	+ Remembrance Frank Rozmanec.
Thur 11/4	9:00a Gosford	+ Remembrance Peter & John Banach & Aniela Hotsteter
Sat 13/4	9:00a Gosford	+ Remembrance Yvonne Keevers; Keevers, Knight & Merchant Families
Sun 14/4	7:30a Gosford	Parish Intentions

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Arlene Peters, Kath Ryan, John Burg, Peter & Lena O'Donovan, Tina Learwood, Allan Francis, Brian Loo, Bev Meehan, Michael Graham, Glenn Mills, Frank McGuinness, Angela Cunningham, Simon Low, Christopher Graham, Frances Cannon, John Riley, Margaret Gunnison, Sonia Cummings, Anna-Marie Rowan, Denise Smith.

### CONDOLENCES

Please pray for Nicole Harrison, REC at St Joseph's College on the sudden death of her mother, Pamela Aarts.

May our condolences bring you comfort and may our prayers ease the pain of your loss.

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Laurence Pope, Adriana Cooke, Pamela Aarts.

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret O'Donovan, John Van Yzendoorn, Tim Piper, Harry Remfry, Ken Caves.

### REMEMBRANCES:

Lloyd Woods, Ronald Freeman, Patrick Holohan, Michael Kokegei, Frank Rozmanec, Colin Woods, Peter & John Banach, Aniela Hotsteter, Yvonne Keevers; Keevers, Knight and Merchant Families.

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

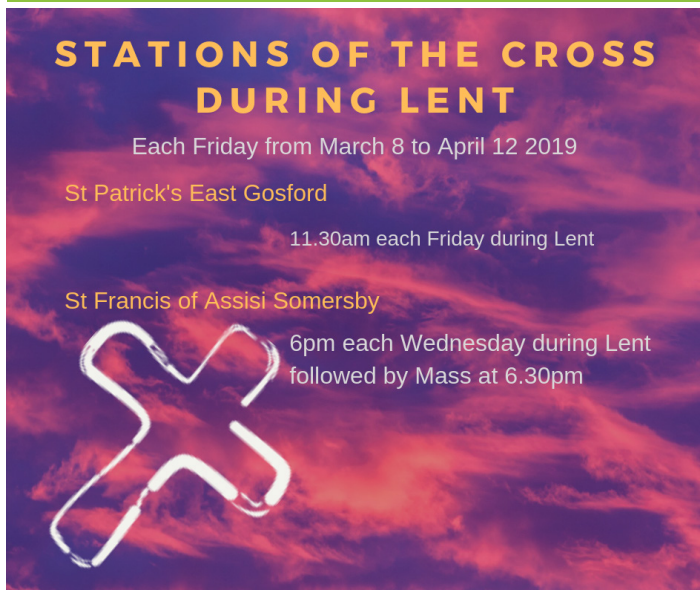
Each Friday from March 8 to April 12 2019

St Patrick's East Gosford

11.30am each Friday during Lent

St Francis of Assisi Somersby

6pm each Wednesday during Lent followed by Mass at 6.30pm



### THE LIGHT IS ON

#### FRIDAY APRIL 12, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

St Patrick's will be open with Adoration and Reconciliation a wonderful opportunity for quiet time and prayer with our Lord.

[www.thelightisonforyou.org.au](http://www.thelightisonforyou.org.au)

### CANDLE CLEANING IN THE CHURCH

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The wonderful Clem and Marie O'Donovan have been faithfully cleaning the Church Candles for many years and need to retire. The parish owes them a big thank you for their selfless work over the years.

We now need volunteers to take on this task of keeping the candles spic n span.

### EASTER MASS TIMES

**Holy Thursday - NO MORNING MASS**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30pm.**  
 Church opened for Adoration until 11pm

**Good Friday**  
 Stations Gosford: 10:00 am  
 Stations Somersby: 9:00 am  
 Passion Gosford: 3:00 pm  
 Passion Somersby: 3:00 pm

**Easter Vigil**  
 Blessing of Easter Baskets Gosford: 11am  
 Mass Gosford: 7:00 pm  
 Mass Somersby: 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday**  
 Gosford Masses: 7:30 am  
 9:00 am  
 [Family Mass] 10:30 am  
 5:00 pm - **yes 5:00 pm**

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:

**Sunday April 28.** We will have an Hour of Mercy from 2-3pm including Adoration, Reconciliation & the Chaplet.

### PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Don't forget to bring your project compassion boxes in on Palm Sunday or East Sunday.

### HOLY LAND ANNUAL COLLECTION

Collection for the Holy Land Places of worship.  
 Good Friday 3:00pm

## IN YOUR PARISH OF ST PATRICK'S THIS WEEK

Sunday April 7	10:00am	Morning Tea to celebrate Fr Greg's Birthday
Monday April 8	7:00pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation at Kincumber
Tuesday April 9	7:00pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation at Wyoming Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), in the Admin Centre. Catholics Returning Home, in the Jordan Room.
Wednesday April 10	6:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm	Stations of the Cross at St Francis of Assisi, Somersby. Mass at St Francis of Assisi, Somersby. 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at St Patrick's Gosford
Thursday April 4	7:00pm	2nd Rite of Reconciliation at Woy Woy
Friday April 5	9:30am 11:30am 7:00pm	Craft Group meeting in Jordan Room Stations of the Cross, prior to the Mass at St Patrick's Gosford. Adoration and Reconciliation in St Patrick's

### KIDS CORNER

#### PINT SIZED PADDIES

#### **NEXT EVENT FRIDAY MAY 3.**

In the School Hall after school.

In the school hall. Enquiries to Melissa 0434 251 481

#### LENTEN PASSPORT PROGRAM 2019

#### **CHILDREN, BRING IN YOUR LENTEN PASSPORTS ON PALM SUNDAY AND RECEIVE YOUR REWARD!**

Each week during Lent the children have been collecting stickers for their passports - 6 in total - and now those who bring their passports with at least 4 stickers, may show them to Father Greg after Mass on Palm Sunday, April 14, and he will have a gift for each and every one of them! We look forward to seeing your many smiling faces that day!

#### KIDS QUOTES

'God has giant ears, so he can hear everything we are saying.'

'Mum, Dad, I know who's seen God.' And we said, 'Who?' And he said, 'Doctors, when they cut people open.'

When I grow up I am going to work with rocks. For example I am going to throw big ones into the water and make big splashes!

### PARISH YOUTH GROUP

#### FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND OVER

#### **PALM SUNDAY AFTER 6:00 PM MASS**

Meeting in the Jordan Room this Sunday at 7:00pm. All youth are welcome to join the growing vibrant group who meet every 2nd week for Spirituality and social activities.

#### **YOUTH BAND**

The Youth Band are welcoming new members, so if you are musically inclined why not join the band. If you are interested make contact with one of the existing band members or Fr Greg.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS - HELP NEEDED

#### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 10AM AT ST PATRICK'S**

Calling all high-school students and young adults - join the team to help present Stations of the Cross to the Parish on Good Friday. We will need readers, musicians and 'actors' and will rehearse the liturgy at

least twice prior to Good Friday.

If you are interested in being part of this powerful and meaningful liturgy please contact Kelly Paget, [kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au)

### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP



After 9:00am Mass in the Jordan Room.

All proceeds to Charities

### GENERAL NEWS

#### SPIRITUAL HEALING APPOINTMENTS

#### **SR MARGARET SCULLY RSC**

Sr Scully will be in the Parish on Saturday May 11 and is available for spiritual healing appointments. To book some time with Sr Scully please phone 9810 2499 to make an appointment.

#### CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE PASCHAL LAMBS

#### **ON SALE NOW!**



Why not make your Easter gift more meaningful? Milk and white chocolate, only \$8 each. Your purchase supports the work of the Michaelite Mission Priests in PNG and your parish. Available from the Parish Office now.

#### ADVERTISING FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

#### **FOR THE EASTER CEREMONIES:**

Please place your name on the sheet available at the sacristy today indicating the services at which you would like to assist.

#### MINISTRY TO THE SENIORS' BUS TRIP TO THE HUNTER VALLEY.

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 29, DEPARTING AT 9.30AM.**

Come along for a great day out where we'll visit the Marthaville Arts & Crafts at Cessnock & the Monarch in the Hunter, the home of all royal memorabilia, in Nulkaba.

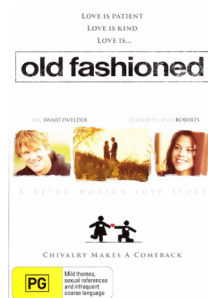
\$35 per person, all inclusive - morning tea, lunch, travel and any applicable entry fees.

Call Barb on 4322 0250 to book.

## APRIL MOVIE NIGHT IS SATURDAY 27

### STARTING AT 7PM **OLD FASHIONED**

Every month we have a Pot Luck Dinner and Movie night.



This month with dinner we will enjoy, "Old Fashioned", Clay Walsh has given up his reckless ca-raousing past life and now runs an antique shop in a small country town. Clay had be-come notorious for his theories on love and romance as well as his devout be-liefs.. When Amber Hewson a free -spirited young women with a restless soul drives into town and rents the apartment above the antique shop. Amber finds her-self strangely drawn to Clay's strong faith and noble ideas.

See it Saturday April 27 in the Jordan Room.

## THIS SUNDAY MORNING TEA AFTER 9:00 AM

### MASS

Sponsored by the Salvatorian Collaborators' Team.

Join us today as we help Fr Greg celebrate his birthday.

This will be a special time for Fr Greg and another opportunity for you to get to know our new Priest.



## EASTER CHURCH CLEANING, 9:30 AM MONDAY APRIL 15.

Please come along and help out - a luscious morning tea follows!

## SUNDAY BREKKIES ARE BACK ON!

### COMMENCING SUNDAY, MAY 5 AFTER THE 9AM MASS.

We have a very generous committee now formed to assist with fundraising and community building within the parish, and their first initiative is to bring back our cooked brekkies on the first Sunday of the month at the Jordan Room, alternating between the completion of the 7.30am & 9am Masses monthly. Please give this your support. At the same time, perhaps there may be those who'd like to help out on the 1st Sunday, and if you are so inclined, please place your name on the list in the foyer, and someone from the committee will be in touch with you.

## LENTE 2<sup>ND</sup> RITE OF RECONCILIATION

St Patrick's Parish will host the Lenten 2<sup>nd</sup> rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday April 10 at 7:00pm. Gosford will host Priests from around the Diocese to enable parishioners to participate in the 2nd rite of Reconciliation which is a very moving service and an opportunity to receive reconciliation.

## BAPTISM PRESENTATIONS

This Sunday we welcome Stanley & Finn McDarby and Andie & Brodie McCarthy, into our community at St Patrick's. They will be having the sacrament of Baptism in the coming few weeks.

## THANK YOU!

We owe a big 'thank you' to bricklayer Mark Bennett, who recently donated his skills with the excellent work completed at the monastery building. Mark currently advertises in our Bulletin, and we would encourage anyone needing his skills to contact him!

We would also like to thank Gabe Marquart of The Iron Works, Woy Woy for the restoration of our beautiful cross

Tel: 4325-1042 ♦ email: [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au) ♦ Web: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford)

after the theft of a portion of it. Gabe and his team gave us a replacement which should test the skills of any would-be thief, and we appreciate the extra work put into it to ensure its future safety.

Thank you to Anne Mackson on joining the ELC visiting team on behalf of the Ministry to the Seniors, and following our recent request. Ann will be joining Anne Holohan and Denise Nicholson, and we are very grateful for generously offering their time in this pastoral ministry.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Monday night every week this friendly group would love to have you join them, so please come along and have a look to see if it is for you.

## CHRISM MASS TUESDAY APRIL 16

The annual Chrism Mass will be held at the Cathedral, 23 Yardley Avenue Waitara.

Our Parish Bus will depart St Patrick's at 4:45 pm so you may avail yourself of a light supper of soup and a bread roll which will be available outside the Cathedral from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Tea and coffee will also be available after Mass in the Nulty Room.

A booking sheet is available at the foyer today on which to place your name against one of the remaining 16 seats available.

## A BIG REMINDER TO PARENTS

**Confirmation applications close on April 10! Please forward the completed applications to the Parish Office as soon as possible That is this week, if you have not already done so, why not complete the application as soon as you get home from Mass today. Scan the form with your phone and email the scanned copy to [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au).**

## MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY - NOTRE DAME BROADWAY

On Saturday, April 13 from 9am to 4:00pm. The day will include Mass, time for reflection and reconciliation, lunch and afternoon tea, and inspiring talks from three speakers. The retreat will take place at The University of Notre Dame Australia on Broadway campus. Event is free, registration essential:

[Sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au](mailto:Sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au) or (02) 8204 4189 or [Trybooking.com/475522](http://Trybooking.com/475522)

## PRAYER FOR NEW BISHOP

Heavenly Father and Eternal Shepherd, you watch over and govern your flock with vigilance and concern.

In your immense love, grant to your Church, a pastor who will please you by his holiness and aid us with his unfailing care.

In your time, grant us the joy of welcoming a shepherd formed after your own heart.

May he be an example of virtue to your people and, imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit, fill their minds with the truth and beauty of the Gospel.

Grant wisdom, O Lord, to those now discerning your holy will in the selection of our new bishop.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and through the intercession of our mother,

Mary Star of the Sea.

Amen.

## FIRST READING

### JOS 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

## FIRST READING

### IS 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

**I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.**

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before.

See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it?

Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink.

The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

### PS 125. R. V.3

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!

Indeed we were glad.

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:

they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

**(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

## SECOND READING

### PHIL 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

**Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.**

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### JL 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL

### JN 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

**Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him

this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

## COMMENTARY

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking his death.

In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by his teaching and his actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by his words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The chief priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus.

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those

Your Roster – April 14, PALM SUNDAY [C]					
MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30am	9:00am	6:00pm	Somersby - 6:30
DATE	13.04.19	14.04.19	14.04.19	14.04.19	13.04.19
Audio/Visual	Tilly Timp	Mark Fawkner	Emily Torres Machuca	Joe Tropiano	Melissa Monaghan
Acolytes	Javier Alvarez Peter Young	John Ryan Eunice Dal Busco	Peter Cho Peter Julius	Patrick Nicholls Kevin O'Donnell	
Lectors	Bridget Sharp Tilly Timp	Josie McGuinness Gerard Price	Frances Mathey Nicole Mead	Cheryl Walsh Penny Gomez	Marisa Xuereb Melissa Monaghan
Commentator	Jan Blanch	Josie McGuinness	John Miller	Corrie Dunn	Charlene Xuereb
Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	Rosemary Lee Elaine Third Tilly Timp Diana Ball Jan Blanch	Gerard Price Margaret Eadie Sheila Evans Pam McCrae Ian McGuinness	Katie Moss Isobel O'Neil Keith Quinn Emily Rudd Wendy Stringer	Amy Sands Tom Sands Sherree Sullivan Rosa Tropiano Patricia Anderson	Mary Luci Jane Azzopardi
Altar Servers	Taz Parry Harry Cockerton Sam Cormack		Tina Dennis Hannah Farris Scott Shedden Lincoln Gottardo	Samantha Angulo Sienna MacDonald Raydon Gomez Vito De Toffol	Dylan Xuereb Mia Xuereb
<b>COUNTERS</b> April 8 - Group 4 Gary Smith, Margie Gunnulson, Diana Addis, Lyn Beglin April 15 - Group 3 Fiona Eaton Marie Cradock	<b>ALTAR LINEN</b> Josie McGuinness Collect April 17 Return April 21	<b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b> April 13 Fran Thompson Barbara Mills Roslyn McMahan Audrey Morris	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY</b> Palm Sunday - None <b>HOSPITAL VISITATION</b> Barbara Mills Peter Mills	<b>PARISH BUS</b> <b>Driver:</b> John Donnelly <b>Helper:</b> Brenda Donnelly	<b>Flowers:</b> Rita Galea

caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in Mark 12:13-17. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See Luke 18:9-14).

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more

than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

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## NEXT SUNDAYS READINGS:

1st: Isaiah 50:4-7  
2nd: Phil 2:6-11  
Gospel: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

LORD of the Harvest,  
BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.  
INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving— for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen. — Pope Francis



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