



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.



2019, THE YEAR OF TRUST

Fr Greg has invited us all to join with him in celebrating a year of trust. Today's readings are about faith and trust in the Lord.

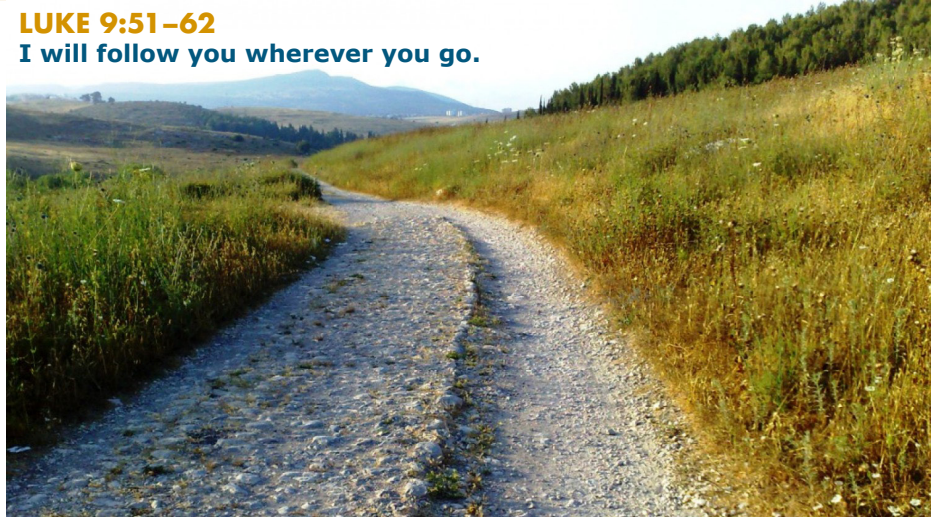
Diane Burget's commentary from Liturgyhelp.com.

This fast moving story shows that certain symbolic action also carried prophetic meaning. It indicates that Elisha was invested with the power and authority of Elijah. It also suggests that the kind of activity in which Elijah was engaged has come to an end and a new generation of prophets is on the horizon. This account describes the conflict that exists between two fundamental responsibilities: fidelity to the call from God and fidelity to one's primary family obligations. Elisha was commissioned by God to be a prophet, and it is up to him to decide whether or not he can make the radical break from the past that this commission requires. His response to God is whole-hearted.

This psalm of confidence opens with a declaration of trust that God will protect the psalmist from danger and ultimately from death. A confession of faith follows. Two images express the covenant relationship between God and the psalmist. First, the allotted portion of land is the inheritance that each tribe was given and which was handed down within the tribes' generation after generation. The second image, the cup, refers to the practice of drinking from the same cup during a ritual ceremony, thus solidifying the union between all who participate. Regardless of the terrifying,

LUKE 9:51-62

I will follow you wherever you go.



even life-threatening ordeals that must be endured, the psalmist proclaims that God is steadfast.

Paul states that Christians have been freed for the sake of freedom itself. They are then exhorted to stand fast in their freedom and not to allow themselves to be bound again. There are eschatological implications here. The Christians are already free, but they are not yet totally free. Habits of mind and heart, addictions of all kinds, retain their hold even after they are renounced. Paul then contrasts life lived in the Spirit with life lived in the flesh. It is not clear whether he is speaking of the spirit of the person or the Spirit of God. What is clear is his assertion that, if the Galatians are guided by the Spirit of God, they will not be enslaved by the law.

Jesus' journey through the territory of the Samaritans contains several subtle allusions to the prophet Elijah. The account begins with a reference to Jesus being taken up just as the ancient prophet was (cf. 2 Kgs 2:11). When people do not accept Jesus, James and John suggested that Jesus call down fire from heaven, just as Elijah had done (cf. 2 Kgs 1:10). Finally, the request to say goodbye to parents before following God's call was made of Elijah by Elisha his disciple (1 Kgs 19:20). A second episode, Jesus emphasises the demands that discipleship will exact. Discipleship may require a whole-hearted commitment to Jesus, but this commitment must be embraced realistically. © Dianne Bergant CSA



FR FRANCIS JORDAN SDS

"Oh good Jesus, You have redeemed souls with Your Precious Blood, and should I, upon whom you have lavished so many favours, stand idly by."



POPE FRANCIS' JUNE 2019 INTENTION

Evangelization – Priests

That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are the most poor.

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 ♦ Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford



ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD

PASTORAL CARE

Fr Grzegorz [Greg] Skulski SDS
Parish Administrator

Email: greg@sds.org.au

SALVATORIANI

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: saintpatscdd@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

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Office Admin:

Denise Jay
Judith Myers
Maria Andrzejewska

Friday: 9:00am – 3:30pm

AV Presentation:

Bob Smith
Peter McLean
Greg McBride

Bursar:

Darren Fitzgibbon

Caretakers:

Ron Begg
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 Rod Shoebridge cfc

MONDAY JULY 1, DVD MOVIE

In the Jordan Room after 9:00am Mass
DVD on the Life of Fr Francis Jordan.



CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES

Gosford:

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

WEEKEND MASSES

Gosford:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm Sunday: 7:30am Children's Liturgy:
9:00am During 9:00am Mass
6:00pm Each Sunday of 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 Korean Mass Monthly:
Sunday Monthly: [Enq: Peter 0409-
12 noon 508-123] 6:00pm

ADORATION IN OUR CHURCH

Before the Blessed Sacrament

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

RECONCILIATION – 1ST RITE

Gosford:

Mon-Thur: during Adoration - see above.

1st Friday of Month: Prior to Mass 11:30am

Other Fridays: After Mass 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 to 3:00pm and to 1:00pm Fridays.

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 / Christian Unity / Christian DVD:

Mondays at 9:30am twice monthly,
Wednesday at 10:00am in the Jordan Room.
Bible Study Monday: 7:00 pm 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
9:00am 4th Tuesday Monthly
in Jordan Room

Cancer Prayers:

Grief & Loss, Prayer & Support:

1st Thursday Monthly 2pm in Jordan Room

Craft Group - Friday each week of School Term

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP

After 9:00am Mass in the Jordan Room.

All proceeds to Charities



IN YOUR PARISH OF ST PATRICK'S THIS WEEK

Sunday June 30	7:30am 9:00am 6:00pm	Commissioning Parish Council Members at every Mass. Catechist Speaker at all Masses. Youth Mass and Youth Group meeting after 6:00pm Mass.
Monday July 1	9:00am 9:30am 7:00pm	Mass DVD Movie after 9:00 am Mass, in the Jordan Room, the life of Fr Jordan. Bible Study Meeting in the Jordan Room.
Tuesday July 2	8:30am 9:00am 7:30pm	Adoration. Mass followed by Cancer Prayer Group meeting. Men Alive Group, Mass with meeting following in the Jordan Room.
Wednesday July 3	10:00am 11:00am 11:30am	Bible Study Group in Jordan Room. Adoration. Mass.
Thursday July 4	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am 2:00pm	Adoration. Mass for Vocations. Salvatorian Colaborators Meeting in the Jordan room. Grief and Loss meeting in the Jordan room.
Friday July 5	9:30am 12:00am 12:30pm	Craft Group in Jordan Room. Healing Mass - Followed by light Luncheon in the Jordan Room, please join us. Adoration in St Patrick's from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.
Saturday July 6	9:30am 10:15am	Margaret Scully appointments in the Admin Centre. Choir Practice in Church.

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES, JULY 27

While at the Movie Enjoy a Pot Luck Dinner.

Simply bring something of the quantity you would normally prepare for yourself, to share with all, for either the Main Meal, the Desert, or towards tea, coffee, hot chocolate after dinner while we watch the movie with biscuits or nibbles.

The title of the Movie to be shown on July 27 is to be announced next Bulletin.

KIDS CORNER

PINT SIZED PADDIES

NEXT EVENT NEXT FRIDAY JULY 26.

In the School Hall 7:00 pm on 2nd and 4th Friday of each Month.

Parents of Primary School Children contact Melissa Monaghan and book your youngsters in for a few hours of fun in spiritual environment.

Enquiries to Melissa 0434 251 481

ST PATRICK'S PARISH YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Tonight, June 30 after 6:00 pm Mass in the Jordan Room. Pizza, food, games, memes and more. Exploring the Catholic faith through talks, small groups, prayer and bible study, all as part of a stable community of young people. Good Music. Quality Banter.

A great opportunity to meet other young Catholic guys and girls in high school. **Stay after Mass tonight!**

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.

GENERAL NEWS

VICTORIA ST CAMPUS PARKING UNAVAILABLE SATURDAY JULY 6

As the school is replacing the sunshade and their workers will need the entire area. Obviously, this affects those who attend Saturday morning Mass, and we apologise for any inconvenience.

FR GREG WILL BE AWAY ON LEAVE IN POLAND FROM 8TH JULY

If any parishioners need an appointment with Fr Greg before he leaves, please contact the Parish Office.

Fr Greg has organised for Priests to fill in while he is away. From July 17, Fr Matthew Buczma from Poland will be in residence until Fr Greg returns mid-August.

RECONCILIATION EDUCATION EVENING: WEDNESDAY JULY 24

Fr Greg would like to remind all parents that attendance at the Parents' Education Evening in the church on July 24 is an obligatory step in the enrolment process of your child into the reconciliation programme. If you know at this stage that it will be impossible to attend, please contact the Parish Office immediately.

'SONGS OF PRAISE' CONCERT

Woy Woy Parish will be holding a 'Songs of Praise' concert in honour of Our Lady on Sunday, August 18.

"Save the Date"

The Music Ministry of Woy Woy Parish will present a Songs of Praise concert in honour of Our Lady. Sunday, August 18, 2019, Time: 2pm followed by afternoon tea.

Mark your diary and come and raise your voice in song at St John The Baptist Church Woy Woy.

Del Matheson

For Music Ministry, Woy Woy Parish.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/19

This weekend all givers via the envelope system will find their 2019/20 set available at the foyer for collection. For givers to Charitable Works and Project Compassion which yield 100% tax deductibility, your receipts will be available at the foyer hopefully by July 7.

Now is a good time for everyone to consider their financial support of the parish, its maintenance and sustenance. It's important that we all contribute to the stewardship of the parish, and our 2nd collection each week allows for this. However, giving via the Planned Giving programme, that is into a registered envelope or via monthly credit or debit card, will enable us to plan and budget for the future and

we highly recommend this form of giving.

We recognise how difficult it is to remember the envelope each week, and as we as a nation are moving forward to a cashless society so, we will be endeavouring to plan towards this at St Patrick's in the future. However, in the meantime, a monthly debit against a credit card [which may be a cheque or savings account with a Visa or Mastercard facility] is a great way to give.

This week we have available at all pews, a card which may be completed and either popped on the plate if you are comfortable with that. Or you can scan and email it to patsgos@acs.net.au, or drop it in at the office. We can then set the ball rolling to include you as a registered financial supporter of the parish, and we hope as many people as possible will respond to this call.

STEWARDSHIP IN OUR PARISH:

VOLUNTEER



Have you ever thought about helping your Parish community? It can be an enriching experience!

Loving God,

You have entrusted us with the good news of your gospel. It is a privilege that we do not take lightly.

Thank you for equipping each one of our volunteers with gifts for ministry.

Thank you for their willingness to respond to your call to serve with gladness.

Sustain them on the days when they are tired, give them the strength to serve your children with patience, mercy, and grace, particularly with those children who need extra patience, compassion, and grace.

And, as they serve you, give them joy through glimpses of your Kingdom in the faces of those whom they serve.

Through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, we pray, Amen.

Applications to join a ministry of your choosing, forms are on the pews this weekend. – simply complete and either place on the plate or drop it into the parish office.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020:

National Theme for Discernment #3 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared how deeply they treasured the Eucharist and the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church.

Find out more: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

TWILIGHT TALKS

CATHOLIC YOUTH BROKEN BAY

Catholic Youth Broken Bay invites you to Twilight Talks. Join Young Adults (18+) from around the Diocese to connect, share a meal, pray and be nourished by inspiring speakers. In July, we will break open the spiritual & practical dimension of mental health and look into useful tools for taking care of yourself & being sensitive to others around you.

Date: Tuesday 2 July 2019

Time: 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Venue: Hotel Pennant Hills, 352 Pennant Hills Rd,
Pennant Hills

PJ Almendras, Team Leader Catholic Youth Broken Bay

Catholic Life & Faith Formation

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY - 7 JULY

The Bishops Commission has produced a video for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday which may be found here via YouTube or [here for a download of the mp4](#) so it can be viewed offline. Please visit the [NATSICC website](#) for further information and other resources.

COMMISSIONING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

This Sunday, Fr Greg will be commissioning all the Members of the Parish Council. At each mass attended by members of the council, Fr Greg will commission them for the upcoming term in office. Please join with Fr Greg and congratulating them and offering your prayers for their guidance in the operation of their respective roles.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

NAME	PORTFOLIO	POSITION
Maria Andrzejewska	Finance	Ex Officio
Scott Beattie	Chairperson	Member
Mark Bonnici	St Edward's College Principal	Ex Officio
Aaron Cartwright	Youth	Member
Alain Corne	Catechists	Ex Officio
Mary Luci	Somersby/Spencer	Member
Barbara McCarthy	Seniors	Member
Tony McCudden	St Joseph's College Principal	Ex Officio
Chris Paget	Adult Faith Ed [RCIA] & AV/Music	Member
Hilary Pope	Safeguarding, Ecumenism & Social Justice	Member
Emily Rudd	Korean/Filipino Communities	Member
Jay Sutton	Servers: Senior & Junior [Secretary]	Member
Cheryl Walsh	St Patrick's Primary School Principal	Ex Officio

CATECHISTS CORNER

At all Masses, this weekend members of our Catechist team will be available to share their experiences in the classroom. Parishioners are invited to respond to Christ's command to spread the Good News by joining our team. Catechist pamphlets will be available at the Church doors. Also, catechists will be available to answer any questions about the ministry. Call Alain (0414273654) or the Parish Office to get started.

FROM THE OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING (CHANCERY)

A culture of Safeguarding values WISDOM... "Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom." - James 3:13

NEXT SUNDAY FOR BREAKFAST

Treat yourself to breakfast with your parish family in the Jordan room. Good food and good company what more could you ask. Bacon and eggs, tea, coffee, hot chocolate and some cakes. After 7:30am Mass, before 9:00am Mass or after 9:00am Mass you choose the time to suit you.

All proceeds go to help fund projects in our parish.



**St Patrick's Parish
Fundraising
Breakfasts are
coming back!**

Join us in the Jordan room on the first Sunday of the month after the 7:30am and 9am Masses

**Bacon/sausage and egg sandwich \$5
Coffee \$4 Tea \$3
Hot Choc \$4**




YOUTH RETREAT 13TH - 14TH JULY 2019.

LET JESUS BE YOUR GUIDE

With Fr Roni George VC and Fr Joby George VC.

Are you uncertain of your future direction? Join with fellow youth of the Catholic Faith. See details below.



ARE YOU TRAVELLING TO UNCERTAINTY?
LET JESUS BE YOUR GUIDE!


"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalms 119:105



**YOUTH RETREAT
13th-14th JULY 2019
SAT(9:30 am) to SUN (4:30pm)**

with Fr Roni George VC & Fr Joby George VC

For bookings please contact: 04 6848 6782.
email: drcretreatrego@gmail.com, drcsydney@gmail.com

DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE
160 Hensons Road, Somersby, SYDNEY-NSW 2250, Tel: 02 4372 1598
www.divineretreatcentre.org.au www.facebook.com/divineretreatcentersomersby

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Mass	Intention
Sat 29/6	9:00a Gosford 5:00p Gosford 6:00p Somersby	Recently Dec'd Sean Devine +Remembrance Keevers, Knight, Marchant families Recently Dec'd Kristie Camilleri Scibblia
Sun 30/6	7:30a Gosford 9:00a Gosford 6:00p Gosford	+ Remembrance Aniela Hofsteter Peter & John Banach Parish Intentions + 1st Anniversary Barbara Hemphill
Tue 2/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Recently Dec'd Carmel Martin
Wed 3/7	11:30a Gosford	For the personal Intentions of Juana Miranda
Sat 6/7	9:00a Gosford	Maria Dabska
Sun 7/7	9:00a Gosford	Parish Intentions

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Bob Smith, Charlie Sammut, Rachael Lees, Brian Graham, 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, Melita Waters, Judy Wennerbom, Helen Bligh, Scott McKinnon.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jean Pickup, Sean Devine, Kristie Camilleri Scibblia, Kerry Dwyer, Kathleen Canavan, Carmel Martin, Jean Melehan, Victor Galea, Yvonne Dillon, Fr Ian Abbott, Netta Evernett, Allan Southgate, Kerry Dwyer.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Maria Dabska, Barbara Hemphill, Majorie Craves, Magdalen McNamara, Irena & Jan Thomporowski.

REMEMBRANCES:

Aniela Hofsteter, Peter & John Banach, Neta Saunders, Bernice Terry, Franz HakVoort, Ronald Freeman, June Farr, Edward & Stephen Blow, Michael Kokegei.

CONDOLENCES:

Condolences to Tony and the Pickup family on the loss of mother, Jean please pray for Jean's soul and the Pickup family as they grieve the passing of Jean.



Matthew 5:4
**Blessed are those who
mourn, for they will
be comforted.**

FIRST READING

1 KGS 19:16. 19-21

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Elisha rose and followed Elijah and became his servant.

The Lord said to Elijah: 'Go, you are to anoint Elisha son of Shaphat, of Abel Meholah, as prophet to succeed you.'

Leaving there, Elijah came on Elisha son of Shaphat as he was ploughing behind twelve yoke of oxen, he himself being with the twelfth. Elijah passed near to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother, then I will follow you' he said. Elijah answered, 'Go, go back; for have I done anything to you?' Elisha turned away, took the pair of oxen and slaughtered them. He used the plough for cooking the oxen, then gave to his men, who ate. He then rose, and followed Elijah and became his servant.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. CF. V.5

(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.'

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.
(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.
(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.
(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.
(R.) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

SECOND READING

GAL 5:1. 13-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

My brothers, you were called to freedom.

When Christ freed us, he meant us to remain free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or

this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, since the whole of the Law is summarised in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community.

Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 SM 3:9; JN 6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

LK 9:51-62

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus resolutely set his face towards Jerusalem. I will follow you wherever you will go.

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me go and bury my father first.' But he answered, 'Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.'

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go and say good-bye to my people at home.' Jesus said to him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit

for the kingdom of God.'

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY BY BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

Today's Gospel, Luke 9:51-62, begins at a turning point in the Gospel of Luke: the moment (9:51) when Jesus sets out on the long journey to Jerusalem that makes up the second half of his public ministry. Luke often depicts Jesus in the guise and function of the biblical traditions concerning the prophet Elijah. Sensitive to this, the Lectionary proposes as First Reading a sequence from the Elijah cycle in the First Book of Kings (1 Kings 19:16, 19-21). This highlights, both by contrast and comparison, the depiction of Jesus in the gospel.

That a grave destiny awaits him in Jerusalem Jesus has already made clear to his disciples (9:22) and this has just been confirmed by the Father's voice (9:35) in the mysterious episode of the Transfiguration (9:28-36). The opening reference in the Gospel to the drawing near of the 'time for him to be taken up to heaven' alludes to what will be the culminating events of his life: his death, resurrection, and ascension in a way that will recall the taking up to heaven of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). As these days draw near, Jesus 'sets his face to go to Jerusalem.' The language recalls the statement of the Servant figure in Isa 50:7: 'I have set my face like flint.' It conveys the sense of resolutely confronting a grim destiny. Messiah and Son of God though he is, this status will not exempt him from treading the ordinary human part of suffering and death. On the contrary, it is precisely as faithful to the messianic role the Father has laid down for him that he will take this path – entering into the pain and suffering of the world in order to heal it from within.

Two episodes that follow, each in its own way, set a tone or 'direction' for the journey that now begins. In the first, a Samaritan village proves inhospitable to messengers that Jesus sends before him. Two disciples, James and John, propose a violent response to this inhospitality: why not call down fire from heaven to destroy the village? The suggestion has biblical precedent: it recalls exactly what the prophet Elijah did when faced with a similar rebuff (2 Kings 1:10, 12). But here Jesus distances himself from such a prophetic action. Violence is not his way to deal with inhospitality. Later he will have to confront far more murderous inhospitality in Jerusalem. But again, he will reject responding violently to violence (cf. 22:35-38, 49-51). What he would bring to Jerusalem is peace (19:41-44).

The second episode also both echoes

Your Roster – July 7, 14th Sunday Ordinary Time Year [C]					
MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30am	9:00am	6:00pm	Somersby -6:30
DATE	06.07.19	07.07.19	07.07.19	07.07.19	06.07.19
Audio/Visual	Cheryl Parry	Bernie Pannell	Arthur Holland	Anna Jung	Melissa Monaghan
Acolytes	Sam Giddings Peter Young	John Ryan Sheila Evans	Peter Cho Katrina Pratt	Ange Stitt Kevin O'Donnell	Altar Society: Vicki Muscat
Lectors	Diana Ball Jan Blanch	Ron Begg Anne Lovett	Nicole Mead John Miller	Tom O'Brien Sean Pearson	Dakota Xuereb Charlene Xuereb
Commentator	Bridget Sharp	Ron Begg	Frances Mathey	Cheryl Walsh	Nai Herford
Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	Nicole Murphy Jan Blanch Vic Camilleri Terry Cooke Rosemary Lee	Anna Neale Gerard Price Lucy Price Neryl Tyrrell Ron Burgess	Scot Frazer Molly Holland Helene Hussein Marissa Hussein Paul Hussein Liz Malik	Aimee Sands Tom Sands Rosa Tropiano Patricia Anderson Lyn Beglin	Jane Azzopardi Maria Lentini
Altar Servers	Sam Cormack Lachlan Cormack Taz Parry Lachlan Murphy	Sebastian Eager Laura Eager	Roy Kim Heath Ford Lincoln Gottardo Joanna Tony	Joey Stitt Vito De Toffol Remi De Toffol Lorenzo Arango	Dakota Xuereb Matthew Xuereb Flowers: Rita Galea
COUNTERS July 8: Diana Addis Joyce Byrne July 15: Margaret Hunter Neryl Tyrrell	ALTAR LINNEN P/up July 1: Hazel Walsh Ret'n July 5:	ALTAR SOCIETY Eunice Dal Busco Kerryl McGrath Mabel Kan Jo Pugh	CHILDRENS LITURGY School Holidays	PARISH BUS Driver: John Moriarty Helper: Ros Moriarty	HOSPITAL VISITATION Johnson Fernandes Paul Hussein

and contrasts with an incident in the life of Elijah, the one actually told in the First Reading, from 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21. Elijah recruits Elisha to be his apprentice by throwing his cloak over him as he ploughs along with eleven others. Elisha indicates his willingness for a radical change of life by destroying his plough, slaughtering the pair of oxen that were towing it, and giving them to his men to eat. Very reasonably, however, he requests leave to go home and bid farewell to his father and mother. Elijah, for once, is indulgent: he allows Elisha to fulfil the duties of filial piety in this way.

Not so Jesus in the Gospel! He gives three very demanding responses to three people in turn who would be his companions on the journey. He makes clear to the first that following him means a life of wandering, a risky reliance on hospitality, with no guarantee of secure and comfortable lodging. The second and third – one called by Jesus, the other offering himself – both, like Elisha, want to attend first to family duties (caring for a father in the evening of his life; bidding goodbye to the people at home). In contrast to Elijah, Jesus will not allow it, insisting that the urgent claim of the Kingdom must have priority. The Kingdom is about rescuing human beings for life in a world that is fast sliding to destruction. In the face of such urgency even the most sacred family obligations must give way.

The Jesus who confronts us here may seem unusually harsh and uncompromising. It is important, I think, to point out that the other side of this seemingly harsh stance is the passion for the rescue of human lives that drives him on. Jesus is on the march now to a conflict with demonic forces that seek to dehumanise and destroy the world. Those who would seek to rescue it for life and for love must share both his passion and the hardships it entails.

In the Second Reading, Galatians 5:1, 13-18, Paul calls upon his readers to live out the freedom that Christ has won for them by allowing the Spirit to create in them the unselfish love of Christ.

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READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JULY, 7

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

1st – Is 66:10-14

2nd – Gal 6:14-18

Gospel – Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

THURSDAY JULY, 4

St Benedict, abbot.

FRIDAY JULY, 5

St Anthony Zaccaria, priest

SATURDAY JULY, 6

St Henry

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