



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.



TO TRUST IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IN EVERYTHING

IN ALL YOUR WAYS, ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS. (PROVERBS 3:6)

Acknowledging God means knowing God wherever we are and whatever we are doing. This doesn't just mean intellectual assent, but an act of perceiving his character and will in every moment of life.

If we dedicate ourselves to trusting and seeking God in all circumstances, are we then to believe that life will be easy and that no trouble will beset us? We have all experienced enough of life to know that isn't the case. Instead, what we can expect is that our journey will ultimately lead to him, and we will not be shaken when trials come. Jeremiah 17 gives us clarity:

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit. (7-8)

It's not that life no longer has difficulties, but that those difficulties are nothing to fear and that we can remain confident in God in the midst of them. He keeps us vibrant and useful to his will even

LUKE 10:25-37 Who is my neighbour?.



when we feel languished or that the times are against us.

As we trust more in Jesus and have the confidence to act on his will, we may have to turn down opportunities that seem great because Jesus has called us elsewhere, or accept callings that scare us. Acknowledging God in everything means that we remember that no circumstances come to us outside of the Father's will. Knowing this will give us strength even through difficulties, pains, and fears because we know that God will never leave our side.

'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

[St Patrick's on Facebook](#)



Go to our Facebook page and "Like" St Patrick's, to

get the very latest on news and events.



FR FRANCIS JORDAN SDS

"The Divine Saviour, in His great mercy, has called us to become images of himself, as far as possible. He has called us so that, through holiness our work everywhere may be accompanied by blessings, happiness, and salvation."



POPE FRANCIS' JULY 2019 INTENTION

The Integrity of Justice

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

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

SALVATORIANS

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
Bursar: Darren Fitzgibbon
Children's Liturgy & Sacramental Programme
Coordinator:

Margaret Eadie 4325 7817

Catechists' Coordinator:

Alain Corne
Email: 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

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Office Admin: Denise Jay
Judith Myers
Maria Andrzejewska

Friday: 9:00am - 3:30pm

AV Presentation: Bob Smith
Peter McLean
Greg McBride

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 14, CHRISTIAN UNITY PRAYER GROUP

In the Jordan Room after 9:00am Mass

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 July 14	7:30am 9:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Mass. Mass followed by Morning tea in Jordan room. Filipino Mass Youth Mass and Youth Group meeting after 6:00pm Mass.
Monday July 15	9:00am 9:30am 7:00pm	Mass Lectio Divina after 9:00 am Mass, in the Jordan Room. Bible Study Meeting in the Jordan Room.
Tuesday July 16	8:30am 9:00am	Adoration. Mass
Wednesday July 17	11:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Adoration. Mass. Central Coast Chorale Practice in St Patrick's
Thursday July 18	8:30am 9:00am	Adoration. Mass.
Friday July 19	9:30am 12:00am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Craft Group in Jordan Room. Mass Adoration in St Patrick's from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Korean Mass in St Patrick's
Saturday July 20	10:15am 5:00pm 6:30pm	Choir Practise in Church. Mass Mass at Somersby

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES, JULY 27

THE ULTIMATE GIFT - Not the Wealth Jason was expecting.

NEXT MOVIE NIGHT - 27th July.

Movie:- **The Ultimate Gift** (M)

Jason Stevens lives a life of wealth and privilege. When his grandfather 'Red Stevens', dies, Jason expects to receive a hefty inheritance. Instead, however, Jason must set out on a journey of self-discovery to earn the true gift his grandfather meant for him to have. Along the way, Jason befriends a dying girl and her mother and Jason learns what is really important in life. In the end Jason receives the true gifts his Grandfather wanted him to have and cherish for himself.



(PS Bring your tissues and a friend's shoulder)

- ♥ COME AND JOIN US IN THE JORDAN ROOM LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH. STARTING AT 7.00PM
- ♥ SHARE A SATURDAY NIGHT RELAXING WITH FRIENDS FROM OUR OWN COMMUNITY
- ♥ ENJOY A POT LUCK DINNER AND A MOVIE AFTER; WE ARE USUALLY FINISHED BY 10.00PM.
- ♥ WE MAKE IT EASY TO MEET NEW FRIENDS.

Pot Luck Dinners:- Simply bring something to the quantity of what 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.

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 Dessert, or towards tea, coffee, hot chocolate after dinner while we watch the movie with biscuits or nibbles.

YOUTH BAND

The Youth Band is 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 Parish Office.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

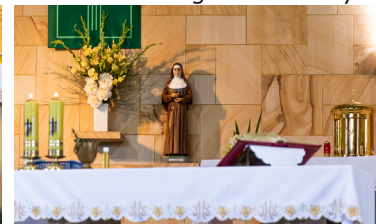
Wishing the students, teachers and staff a great winter holiday break, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in Term 3!

Our next Family Mass will be Sunday, August 25

GENERAL NEWS

BLESSING OF OUR STATUE OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP:

Thanks to the generosity of one of our parishioners, we now have a statue of Australia's first saint, founder of the Josephite Order, and the sisters who established both St Joseph's Catholic College & St Patrick's Primary Schools, East Gosford. Images below of the Blessing last Sunday.



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

Fr Greg has organised for Priests to fill in while he is away. From July 17, Fr Matthew will be in residence until Fr Greg returns mid-August. This past week we thank Frs Brian Rowland and Elisius Shin for their assistance.

RECONCILIATION EDUCATION EVENING: WEDNESDAY JULY 24

OUR RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME ENROLMENTS closed on July 3. The compulsory Parents' Education Evening takes place on Wednesday, July 24 [after the holidays] at 7.30pm and parents are once more reminded that non-attendance will mean a cancellation of the enrolment application.

We look forward to seeing all parents present.

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, July 14 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!**

Tel: 4325-1042 ♦ email: patsgos@acs.net.au ♦ Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford

CENTRAL COAST CHORALE AT ST PATRICK'S

Camille Saint-Saëns 1835–1921, was a French composer, organist, conductor and pianist of the Romantic era. He was a musical prodigy and made his concert debut at the age of ten.

He wrote such beautiful music and we are so lucky to be able to entertain you with some of his compositions.

Joining us is clarinetist, Diane Gardiner. We will also be performing a few songs by other composers.

Come and enjoy the calming music that will be performed in a wonderful acoustic venue. 2:30 pm Sunday 21st July 2019. Pamphlets are available in the Church Foyer.

A PRACTICAL WAY FOR YOU TO HELP

This weekend all givers via the envelope system will find their 2019/20 set available at the foyer for collection. Please take your envelopes home, as this saves the Parish the cost of mailing them to you.

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. 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 also 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.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

National Theme for Discernment #5 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus Find out more: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING ON BRISBANE WATER

LET'S TRY AGAIN FOR ANOTHER SENIORS' OUTING ON THE WATER

BUT THIS TIME, EVERYONE'S INVITED! Sadly the rain made the last maritime adventure impossible so Seniors' Ministry leader Barbara, has booked an even bigger and better event this time:

WEDNESDAY JULY 31, DEPARTING AT 9 am [arrive at 8.45am] join the Seniors' Group for an

ALL DAY CRUISE across the Brisbane Waters and up the Hawkesbury River, returning at about 4 pm.

All this, and morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea for only \$37 [normally \$78!].

If you would like to sail that day, please call Barbara on 0422 909 558 or 4322 0250 – it promises to be a great day!

YEAR OF TRUST CANDLES

On sale from this Sunday's Masses in the foyer, only \$20. To help celebrate St Patrick's Year of Trust, a unique candle and prayer have been produced for you to have in your home to put in a special place where it may remind you to pray for the building of trust in your lives. All profits from the sale of these candles will be directed to assisting our youth in attending the Australian Catholic Youth Conference in Perth at the end of the year.



CHORISTERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

Our choir which now sings at the Vigil Masses twice monthly and the 9am Masses at least twice monthly, is in desperate need of new members - but especially male members as they are currently down to only a few men in the group. Don't be shy, it's a great supportive group and you'll have a joyous time singing for the Lord! If you are interested, please call Avril on 0414 092 883.

ST CHRISTOPHER – THE PATRON SAINT OF SAFE TRAVEL

As St Christopher's Feast Day is July 25, Fr Matthew will be blessing the car for safe travel of any parishioner who would like it after the 9am Mass. Simply meet at the top car park for the prayer of intercession and then stand beside your car there, or across the road in the public car park, and Fr Matthew will come to you to make the blessing.

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





Apostleship of the Sea

Supporting Seafarers Worldwide

Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. You may assist the Apostleship of the Sea in their ministry to seafarers through volunteering or donating online by credit card, bank transfer or cheque at bit.ly/SeaSundayAppeal – or you may simply post a cheque, payable to “Apostleship of the Sea”. Please include your name and contact details and **send to:** Apostleship of the Sea, Sea Sunday Appeal 2019, GPO Box 368, Canberra, ACT, 2601. All donations above \$2 are tax deductible. For more information about its work, www.aos-australia.org

Or watch the Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsolnQRjVvQ&feature=youtu.be>

Saturday Sessions
with Katie
Fertility Awareness Education

FERTILITY CARE

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH KATIE

Open to all, these sessions are ideal for single women or couples who would like to learn to chart their fertility. This free course is a wonderful way to learn in a safe and healthy environment.

When: 1st Saturday of each month

Venue: Caroline Chisholm Centre, Pennant Hills

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Enquiries: katie.fulilove@bbcatholic.org.au

Polish Donuts are back!
If you bought some last time, you know how delicious they are!
If you missed out last time now is your chance to enjoy these delights.

FUNDRAISER
POLISH DONUTS
\$4.50 E.A.
JULY 27 & 28
AFTER ALL MASSES

MASS TIMES
SATURDAY 5PM.
SUNDAY 7:30AM, 9AM AND
6PM AT ST PATS;
SATURDAY 6:30PM AT SOMERSBY

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

MASS INTENTIONS		
Date	Mass	Intention
Sat 13/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Remembrance Keevers, Knight & Merchant Families
	5:00p Gosford	+ Remembrance Oscan Steffan
	6:30p Somersby	+ Anniversary Mary-Anne Bajada
Sun 14/7	7:30a Gosford	Parish Intentions
	9:00a Gosford	Recently Dec'd Steven Kim
	6:00p Gosford	Recently Dec'd Mary Emma Middleton
Mon 15/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Anniversaries Teresa & Thomas Ward
Tues 16/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Remembrance Leo Fry
Wed 17/7	11:30a Gosford	+ Anniversary Deirdre Hatton
Sat 20/7	6:30p Spencer	+ Anniversary Raffaele Spano
Sun 21/7	7:30a Gosford	Parish Intentions
	9:00a Gosford	+ Anniversaries Thelma Tate & Connie-Mae Vaughan

Frances Cannon, John Riley, Margaret Gunnison, Sonia Cummings, Anna-Marie Rowan, Melita Waters, Judy Wennerbom, Helen Bligh, Scott McKinnon.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Steven Kim, Sylvia Hood, John Ponozzo, Mary Emma Middleton, Ian McGuinness, Jean Pickup, Sean Devine, Kristie Camilleri Scibbla.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mary-Anne Bajada, Tera & Thomas Ward, Deirdre Hatton, Raffaele Spano, Thelma Tate, Connie-Mae Vaughan, Paolo Luci, Maria Dabska.

REMEMBRANCES:

Oscar Steffan, Leo Fry, Youkhana David, Grace & Lorenza Bajada, Mr & Mrs Nicolas Toma, Keevers, Knight & Merchant Families, Aniela Hofsteter, Peter & John Banach, Neta Saunders, Bernice Terry, Franz HakVoort, Michael Kokegei.

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,



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

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

CF. PS 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;

I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING

DT 30:10-14

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Let the instruction of the Lord God be near you.

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 68:14. 17. 30-31. 33-34. 36-37. R. SEE V.33

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. **(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.**

As for me in my poverty and pain let your help, O God, lift me up. I will praise God's name with a song; I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

For God will bring help to Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. The sons of his servants shall inherit it; those who love his name shall dwell there.

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

SECOND READING

COL 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

All things were created through him and for him.

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SEE JN 6:63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

LK 10:25-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Who is my neighbour?

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and

bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

JN 6:57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

COMMENTARY BY MARY COLOE PBVM

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20; LUKE 10:25-37

Today we hear a story that has lost its punch by being so familiar. Can we listen to it again in a different way? Can we become the audience who hear Jesus' parable? Can we listen from their vantage point?

A crowd has gathered, for the miracle worker has come. Then one of the lawyers speaks up with a question to test him. You settle back to watch this exchange, as it could provide an interesting diversion to the day's monotony. The test question changes: 'Who is my neighbour?' The miracle worker becomes a storyteller: 'Once upon a time, a man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho.'

You know the road well – a two-day journey on foot, on a narrow dangerous road. This traveller's story is your story. You too could be in his extreme situation, robbed, beaten and left to die. Then the story becomes more interesting.

The story teller uses the familiar pattern of three: the Priest, the Levite, and the _____. The pattern sets up the probability that the next person will be a layperson like you, an ordinary Jew ready to do the good thing when the clerics have failed. 'Typical' you think to yourself. So now, you identify not only with the injured traveller, but anticipate identifying with the Saviour figure. But then Jesus continues his tale. Shock! Horror! The Saviour is a Samaritan! A despised group of half-breeds! Can you really identify with one of those? Can you leave the security of your own identity to imagine, even for a minute, being this other? This outsider. You'd like the role of Saviour, but a Samaritan! You shake your head in utter confusion. The story-teller demands too much.

Who is my neighbour? Over recent years, I have watched both sides of politics try to outdo each other in offering harsh solutions to the unparalleled global crisis of millions of refugees. According to the United Nations at the end of 2012 there were around 10.5 million people seeking refuge from war, poverty, or famine. With the ongoing crisis in Syria, that number

Your Roster – July 21, 16th Sunday Ordinary Time Year [C]					
MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30am	9:00am	6:00pm	Somersby -6:30
DATE	20.07.19	21.07.19	21.07.19	21.07.19	20.07.19
Audio/Visual	Robert Biviano	Mark Fawkner	Greg McBride	Joe Tropiano	Melissa Monaghan
Acolytes	Anna Jung Gerard Nicholls	Gerard Price John Ryan	Peter McLean Alan Dillon	Anna Jung Sean Pearson	Altar Society: Vicki Muscat
Lectors	Bridget Sharp Nicole Murphy	Ron Begg Chris Golden	Keith Quinn Milen Shiju	Cheryl Walsh Corrie Dunn	Alyce Chin Marisa Xuereb
Commentator	Terry Cooke	Ron Begg	Chris Paget	Barbara McCarthy	Peter Chin
Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	Nicole Murphy Rosemary Lee Cheryl Parry Diana Ball Jan Blanch	Joy McHugh Anna Neale Lucy Price Neryl Tyrrell Ron Burgess	Isobel O'Neill Keith Quinn Emily Rudd Wendy Stringer Stephanie Trevenen Mary Brown	Rick Llige Anne Mackson Laraine Rowe Sherree Sullivan Paul Russotti	Alyce Chin + Senior Server
Altar Servers	Taz Parry Lachlan Murphy	Sebastian Eager Laura Eager	Logan Farris Cohen Sutton Indigo Sutton Yuna Iwasaki	Vito De Toffol Remi De Toffol Lorenzo Arango	Dylan Xuereb Jessica Xuereb Flowers: Carmel Xuereb
COUNTERS July 22 David Slingsby Marie Cradock July 29 Fiona Eaton Lyn Beglin	ALTAR LINNEN P/up July 15: Josie McGuinness Ret'n July 19:	ALTAR SOCIETY Maree Nolan Margaret Pratt Carmel Hinkley Anna Neale	CHILDRENS LITURGY School Holidays	PARISH BUS Driver: Brian Jay Helper:	HOSPITAL VISITATION Neryl Tyrrell Sheila Evans

will now be much higher as something like 4 million Syrians are fleeing their country. While the papers can make it appear that we are being inundated with asylum seekers, the facts are that a very small percentage of the millions seeking asylum come here. So when I ask the question who is my neighbour I think of Selina from Sudan, or Fatiah from Afghanistan – real mothers and fathers seeking a chance for life for themselves and their children. Who can be a neighbour for them?

The letter to the Colossians is one of the disputed letters in that it is not clear that it was written by Paul, even though it has some things in common with Paul's way of thinking.

The passage today is often spoken of as a Cosmic Hymn as here the writer affirms the unique place of Jesus within the entire creation. It echoes the concept found in the Wisdom writings of Israel, designating Jesus as the image or icon of the invisible God and pre-existing with God before creation. When speaking of the church, this is likened to a body with Christ as its kephale/head/source. I think it is more likely that the writer is thinking of Christ as the source of the Church community, rather than as a 'head'. The Greek word kephale can hold this sense of 'head' just as we speak of 'the head' of a river, meaning its point of origin. The letter continues to present Jesus as the source, the beginning not only of creation, but of the new creation of those to be reborn from death.

A number of theologians today look to this hymn as one example of New Testament writings interpreting Jesus' death in cosmic dimensions. The cross not only impacted on human life, but in some mysterious way had an impact on all creation. This is new theological thinking that draws upon what we now know about the evolving universe and attempts to find a way of telling the Christian story with new language that no longer relies on a previous, static view of the cosmos. Aware now of the intricate relationship humans have with the environment, our neighbourhood is the entire universe.

Dr Mary Coloe PBVM is a Presentation sister and teaches in the field of New Testament studies at the Yarra Theological Union. She was Associate Professor in New Testament at the Australian Catholic University and has taught at Boston College, the Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley, and at the Ecce Homo Biblical Institute Jerusalem.

Her specialist research areas include the Gospel of John and early Jewish Christian relationships. Dr Coloe has written numerous books, essays and journal articles on these and other topics and is a member of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas and other biblical associations. Her home page is <http://dlibrary.acu.edu.au/staffhome/macoloe>

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JULY, 21

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

1st – Gen 18:1-10
2nd – Col 1:24-28
Gospel – Luke 10:38-42

TUESDAY JULY 23

St Bridget, religious.

WEDNESDAY DAY JULY, 24

St Sharbel Makhluif, priest.



We beseech you, O Lord, let the power of the Holy Spirit be always with us; let it mercifully purify our hearts, and safeguard us from all harm. Grant this through Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit, Sweet guest of My Soul, Abide In Me and Grant That I May Ever abide in Thee. Amen.

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