21ST JULY 2019



# TO TRUST IS TO FEAR THE LORD

Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. (Proverbs 3:7)

Putting trust in the wisdom of man, looking to ourselves—both individually and corporately—is futile in the extreme.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. (1 Corinthians 3:19-21)

Whatever we think we know, the Lord knows more. He is more than capable of both shaming our own supposed wisdom and using it for his greater purpose. So how can we learn to trust God's wisdom, and not our own?

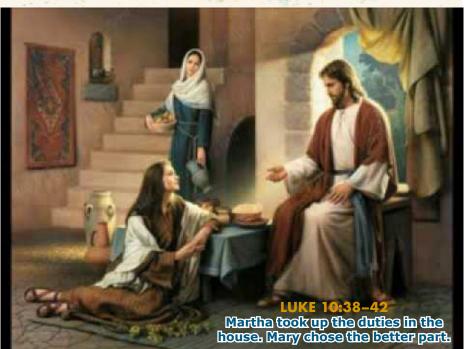
The solution to "being wise in [our] own eyes" is to stand in awe of the Lord, to live in a respectful fear of him. Being scared of God is an idea uncomfortable for some; they want God to be loving and welcoming. But to truly understand the scope of God's love, you must understand that he is also terrifying.

His holiness, size, power, beauty, understanding, knowledge, and person are incomprehensible. His anger at sin is staggering. He is such that the Bible gives several accounts of people falling down as though dead at his mere appearance.

The cure for us being enamored by our







own knowledge is in understanding how sublime and fearsome our God is. The fear of the Lord not only makes his loving kindness that much more incredible, but also motivates us to avoid evil in all its forms. For what attraction can sin hold in the face of such a fearsome God?

'O GOD, I HOPE WITH COMPLETE TRUST THAT YOU WILL GIVE ME, THROUGH THE MERITS OF JESUS CHRIST, ALL NECESSARY GRACE IN THIS WORLD AND EVERLASTING LIFE IN THE WORLD TO COME, FOR THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE PROMISED AND YOU ALWAYS KEEP YOUR PROMISES.'

#### 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

"Do not lose heart, even if you are humiliated greatly. Have confidence in the Lord and strive for holiness."

"Where the Ego has been thrown away - when it is gone, love, endurance and fidelity are so easy."

## 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.

#### 76 York St East Gosford NSW 2250



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



### ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD **PASTORAL CARE**

Email: franceshanna@yahoo.com Ph: 0427 773 317

Fr Grzegorz [Greg] Skulski SDS

Parish Administrator

http://www.sds.org.au

Colleen KirkMon - Thurs:

Sacramental Programme

Catechists' Coordinator:

Email: saintpatsccd@acs.net.au

Media Coordinator: Tom Croll

**SALVATORIANS** 

**PARISH OFFICE** Secretary:

Coordinator:

Youth Ministry:

**VOLUNTEER ROLES** Office Admin:

**AV Presentation:** 

Friday

Wed:

Thurs:

Thursday:

Email:

Friday:

Bursar:

Email: greg@sds.org.au



8:30am - 4:30pm

8:30am - 1:00pm

Frances Mathey

9:00am - 1:00pm

9:30am - 1:30pm

Matthew French

Ph:0411 792 587

9:00am - 2:00pm

Greg McBride

Ron Begg

John Malicki

Trevor Byrne

Joyce Byrne Victor Camilleri

Ph: 4322 0250

Barbara McCarthy

tcroll@photom.com.au

Alain Corne

Darren Fitzgibbon

## CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

**STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES** 

Gosford:	517	INDARD WEEK	DAT MAS	555	
Monday:	9:00am	Wednesday:1	1 · 30 am	Friday:	12 noon
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Gosford:					
Mon-Thur:		uring Adoration		2.	
1st Friday of		rior to Mass 11:3			
Other Friday		fter Mass 12:30p			
Saturday:		:30am and 4:30p			
Sunday:	/	:00am and 5:30p	om		
St Francis o	of Assisi 30	) Lutana Road	, Somers	by:	
Saturday aft	er Vigil:	7:30pm			
		HAPLET OF DIV			
After weekday	Masses to 3:	00pm and to 1:00	pm Fridays		_
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Weekday					
Monday, Tuesd	lay Thursday	8:05am			
Wednesday Friday		10:35am 11:35am			
•		11.3500			
Saturdays I	Monthly	8.05am: 1st –		5	
	8.05am 3rd Saturday – For Mothers & Abortior				
			2	For Persecute	d
		Christians an	d their Per	secutors.	
		OY OF PERPETU	AL HELP	NOVENA	
Last Wednes	sday of	each Month a	t 12	noon	

cronephotom.com.du	Wednesday Friday	10:35am 11:35am	
Denise Jay Judith Myers Maria Andrzejewska 9:00am – 3:30pm	Saturdays Monthly	8.05am: 1st – For Priests & Religious. 8.05am 3rd Saturday – For Mothers & Abo 8.05am 4th Saturday – For Persecuted Christians and their Persecutors.	
Bob Smith Peter McLean	OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA		

**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 Centre7:30pm Tuesdays. Contact the Parish Office to register interest. menALIVE: 7:30pm commencing with Mass 1st Tuesday of Month Cancer Prayers: 9:00am 4th Tuesday Monthly

in Jordan Room Grief & Loss, Prayer & Support: 1st Thursday Monthly 2pm in Jordan Room Craft Group - Friday each week of School Term

#### SATURDAY MORN G

After 9:00am Mass in the Jordan Room.

All proceeds to Charities



## Caretakers:

Gardeners:

Seniors' Ministry:

### School Principals

St Patrick's Primary: St Joseph's College: St Edwards College: St Peter's College:

Mrs Cheryl Walsh 4325 1159 Mr Tony McCudden 4324 4022 Mr Mark Bonnici 4321 6400 Mr Tim Hilderbrandt 43512344

## Christian Brothers' Community

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

#### **MONDAY 21, LECTIO DIVINA**

In the Jordan Room after 9:00am Mass

IN YOUR PARISH OF ST PATRICK'S THIS WEEK			
Sunday July 21	7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Mass. Mass followed by Morning tea in Jordan room. Baptism Central Coast Chorale concert Mass for St Joseph's & St Edward's Plus Youth Group meeting after 6:00pm Mass.	
Monday July 22	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 23	8:30am 9:00am	Adoration. Mass	
Wednesday July 24	11:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Adoration. Mass. Education Evening for parents of 1st Reconciliation children, in the church	
Thursday July 25	8:30am 9:00am	Adoration. Mass.	
Friday July 26	9:30am 12:00am 12:30pm	Craft Group in Jordan Room. Mass Adoration in St Patrick's from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm.	
Saturday July 27	8:30am 9:00am 9:30am 10:15am 5:00pm 6:30pm	Adoration Mass Baptism preparation Choir Practise in Church. Mass - Donuts for sale in foyer Mass at Somersby	

## PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

THE ULTIMATE

GIFT - Not the

Wealth Jason

Dinner.

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While at the Movie

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dinner while we

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## SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES, JULY 27

## 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 friends 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 Lack Dinner:- 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.

## 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 a spiritual environment.

Enquiries to Melissa 0434 251 481

#### ST PATRICK'S PARISH YOUTH GROUP

### YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Tonight, July 21 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.

We encourage students of St Josephs and St Edwards colleges to join in after 6:00 pm Mass.

A great opportunity to meet other young Catholic guys and girls in high school.

#### Stay after Mass tonight!

## 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 RESUMES

Wishing the students, teachers and staff a productive term, and we look forward to seeing the students do well in their studies during Term 3

### **GENERAL NEWS**

FR GREG WILL BE AWAY ON LEAVE IN POLAND UNTIL MID AUGUST

#### WELCOME FR MATTHEW!

Father Greg arranged for his good friend, Fr Matthew Buczma, to be our pastoral leader while he is away on leave and we would like to say a big welcome to Fr Matthew who has flown from Poland to be with us!

We know Gosford Parish is always a welcoming parish and know that Fr Matthew will be embraced in its warmth.

Fr Greg has reported in to let us know he is enjoying time with his family and especially enjoying his Mum's cooking for the first time in years.

## 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.

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



## 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.

Come and enjoy the calming music that will be performed in a wonderful acoustic venue. This Sunday, July 21.

## A PRACTICAL WAY FOR YOU TO HELP

#### STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR PARISH

Still available at all pews today are two cards – one which nominates your desire to financially support your parish, and the other nominates your desire to offer your time and talents in a ministry.

Please take the time to consider if you could assist in either or both ways – your support is needed and we are grateful for whatever you give or do – and a box is available at the foyer to take your completed cards.

At the moment we have two ministries in desperate need – our choir and our altar society both are in need of your support. To know more about our choir please contact Avril on 0414 092 883.

Your commitment to the Altar Society would only be about two hours once a month and no particular artistic ability is required. To know more, please contact the Parish Office.

## 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.

## SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP.

Each Saturday morning after Mass, some dedicated parishioners provide morning tea and coffee with assorted home made goodies. The proceeds are then shared out to needy causes. Over the last 3 months of April, May and June the following money has been distributed.

St Patrick's Youth	\$610
Fr Chris Riley (Youth Off The Streets)	\$200
Home On The Central Coast	\$200
St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal	\$100
Total Donations for the period	1,110\$

#### SAINTS ANNE & JOACHIM: GRANDPARENTS OF JESUS.

This saintly couple are parents to Mary and grandparents to Jesus. With such amazing offspring, Joachim and Anne must have shared an extraordinary love. They have long been held up as exemplars for married couples, and in fact, they are one of the few married couple saints cannonised in the Catholic Church. We know very few facts about Sts. Anne and Joachim, the only recorded stories of them are from an apocryphal gospel dating from the 4th Century AD called the Protoevangelium of James. ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, we celebrate the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. To all our grandparents, thanks for all the gifts of life and faith they have given us.

## SENIOR MINISTRY OUTING ON BRISBANE WATER

#### Is Fully Booked!

#### Thank you to all who have booked for this wonderful outing.

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.

If you would like to find out more details about the outing, please call Barbara on 0422 909 558 or 4322 0250 – it promises to be a great day!

## 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

## YEAR OF TRUST CANDLES - JUST A FEW LEFT



On sale this Sunday's 9:00am Mass 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.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH A GREAT MOVIE

It's called Tierra de Maria and can be found on Netflix. An attorney acts as a "Devils Advocate" interviewing those who claim to share a personal relationship or mystical experiences with The Virgin Mary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

August 8: Solemnity of Saint Mary of the Cross, Virgin (Mary MacKillop).

August 15: Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The high status of both of these commemorations means that the Gloria and the Creed are included in the Mass.

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

National Theme for Discernment #6 – How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform? This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal.

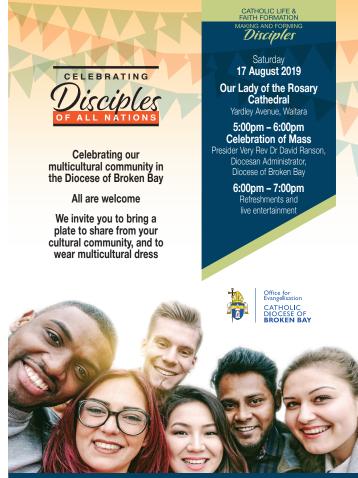
Find out more: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

### **BIBLE SUNDAY – 28 JULY**

Each year the Church designates one Sunday as Bible Sunday, which aims to draw our attention to the Bible more intentionally. This Sunday, 28 July is Bible Sunday and everyone is encouraged to take some time each day to sit and read the Bible, allowing time to grow in relationship with God; through Scripture God speaks to his children. The Diocese of Broken Bay has various Bibles for sale, including Study Bibles and Children's Bibles that are offered at a subsidised cost through the Fr Harry Davis Estate. For more information visit bbcatholic.org.au/bibleoffer

## MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

7:00pm in the Jordan Room, all are welcome.



Enquiries: Natalie Moutia faith.formation@bbcatholic.org.au 8379 1626

Polísh 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.



## YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

MASS INTENTIONS				
Date	Mass	Intention		
Sat 20/7	9:00a Gosford 5:00p Gosford 6:30p Somersby	For a speedy recovery for Margaret Eadie Recently Dec'd Douglas Fitte + Raffaele Spano		
Sun 21/7	7:30a Gosford 9:00a Gosford 6:00p Gosford	Parish Intentions + Anniversary Thelma Tate & Connie-Mae Vaughan. Remembrance Daryl Collins		
Mon 22/7	9:00a Gosford	+ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Mark Bevillicua		
Tues 23/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Recently Dec'd Nelson Fernandes		
Wed 24/7	11:30a Gosford	+ Remembrance Keevers, Knight & Merchant Families		
Thu 25/7	9:00a Gosford	+ Anniversary Mila Farthing		
Fri 26/7	12:00n Gosford	+ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Robert Brundrett		
Sat 27/7	9:00a Gosford 5:00p Gosford	+ Remembrance Maria Czarnecki, Antoni & Jozef Sawicki + Rembrance Magdalen McNamara		
Sun 28/7	9:00a Gosford 6:00p Gosford	+ Remembrance Leo Fry Parish Intentions		

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

Kellie Nevin, 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 Gunnlson, Sonia Cummings, Anna-Marie Rowan, Melita Waters, Judy Wennerbom, Helen Bligh, Scott McKinnon.

### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

MASS TIMES SATURDAY 5PM

6PM AT ST PATS;

Nelson Fernandes, Douglas Fitte, Val Lasoski, Fr Peter Toohey, Douglas Fitte, Steven Kim, Sylvia Hood, John Panozzo, Mary Emma Middleton.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mark Bevillicua, Mila Farthing, Rose Stringer, Frederick Dwyer, Rodney Spence, Raffaele Spano, Thelma Tate, Connie-Mae Vaughan, Mark Bevillicua, Robert Brundrett, Mary-Anne Bajada, Tersa & Thomas Ward, Deirdre Hatton.

#### **REMEMBRANCES:**

Daryl Collins, Maria Czarnecki, Antoni & Jozef Sawicki, Magdalen McNamara, Robert Brundrett, Deceased members of FOSS, Daryl Collins, Keevers, Knight & Merchant Families, Maria Czarnecki, Antoni & Jozef Sawicki, Magdalen McNamara, Oscar Steffan, Leo Fry, Youkhana David, Grace & Lorenza Bajada, Mr & Mrs Nicolas Toma, Aniela Hofsteter, Michael Kokegei.

## **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

#### PS 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

#### **FIRST READING**

#### **GEN 18:1-10**

#### A reading from the book of Genesis

## Lord, do not bypass your servant.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at the Oak of Mamre while he was sitting by the entrance of the tent during the hottest part of the day. He looked up, and there he saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, and bowed to the ground. 'My lord,' he said, 'I beg you, if I find favour with you, kindly do not pass your servant by. A little water shall be brought; you shall wash your feet and lie down under the tree. Let me fetch a little bread and you shall refresh yourselves before going further. That is why you have come in your servant's direction.' They replied, 'Do as you say.'

Abraham hastened to the tent to find Sarah. 'Hurry,' he said, 'knead three bushels of flour and make loaves.' Then running to the cattle Abraham took a fine and tender calf and gave it to the servant, who hurried to prepare it. Then taking cream, milk and the calf he had prepared, he laid all before them, and they ate while he remained standing near them under the tree.

'Where is your wife Sarah?' they asked him. 'She is in the tent,' he replied. Then his quest said, 'I shall visit you again next year without fail and your wife will then have a son.'

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

#### PS 14:2-5. R. V.1

#### (R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;

he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart;

he who does not slander with his tongue.

presence of the Lord.

He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord.

#### (R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what has made a memorial of his wonders; may;

accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

## SECOND READING

#### COL 1:24-28

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

#### The mystery hidden for centuries has now been revealed to his saints.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ What are the important features of for the sake of his body, the Church. I became the servant of the Church when God made me responsible for delivering God's message to you, the message which was a mystery hidden for generations and centuries and has now been revealed to his saints. It was God's purpose to reveal it to them and to show all the rich glory of this mystery to pagans. The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory: this is the Christ we proclaim, this is the wisdom in which we thoroughly train everyone and instruct everyone, to make them all perfect in Christ.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

#### **SEE LK 8:15**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

#### LK 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

#### Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, (R.) The just will live in the Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her."

## **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

### PS 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,

who takes no interest on a loan and he gives food to those who fear him.

## **COMMENTARY BY MARK O'BRIEN**

## **GENESIS 18:1-10**

This is the only story in the Bible where God comes to lunch; presumably therefore, it is important and probably on more than one level. Christian theology identified the three men as the Trinity (cf. Rublev's famous icon) but, within the context of the book of Genesis, the three are gradually 'revealed' as God and two of God's messengers (or angels, the same word in Hebrew is often used to describe a prophet).

this clever little story? I would suggest three and readers may come up with more. An immediately evident one of course is the promise of a child for Abraham's wife Sarah. Note how the story begins with Abraham busy ordering his wife and servant to prepare a repast for a group of men who will presumably talk about men's business. But, as the story unfolds beyond today's reading, one of the visitors politely but firmly shifts the focus to the woman Sarah. So far she is in the background but towards the end of the story she is brought into the foreground. Sarah and the visitor, who is evidently God, converse directly over the promised child, with a play on its name (the Hebrew name Isaac is derived from the verb 'to laugh').

A second important feature of this story arises from the context. It is immediately followed by the story of the deliverance of Abraham's nephew Lot and his family from the wicked city of Sodom by the two 'other' men who are messengers/angels of God. Sodom is then destroyed, along with its sister city Gomorrah. These legendary cities epitomise the wickedness of humanity. The sequence of the annunciation of the birth of Isaac, followed by Lot's deliverance from evil and the destruction of evil is, in my judgment, meant to signal that the ancestors of Israel (and Israel itself) are not chosen just for their own sake but as part of God's larger purpose, which is to save humanity from the evil that threatens to engulf it. In the story, Sodom and Gomorrah represent the epitome of evil, with Lot and his family the threatened victims who are delivered. Abraham is portrayed in the story as a witness of this divine destruction of evil and presumably gets the message, as we readers are also meant to do.

A third feature relates to a catechetical theme that runs throughout the Bible; namely, learning to behave properly as quests in God's house (creation). A key element in this theme is the

Your Roster – July 28, 17th Sunday Ordinary Time Year [C]					
MASS	MASS VIGIL 5:00 7:30am 9:00am 6:00pm				Somersby -6:30
DATE	27.07.19	28.07.19	28.07.19	28.07.19	27.07.19
Audio/Visual	Cheryl Parry	Bernie Pannell	Roy Kim	Joe Tropiano	Melissa Monaghan
Acolytes	Sam Giddings	Sheila Evans	Peter Cho	Peter Forbes	Altar Society:
	Anna Jung	John McCrae	Aaron Cartwright	Kevin O'Donnell	Vicki Muscat
Lectors	Diana Ball	Regina Fong	Carol Bailey	Penny Gomez	Alyce Chin
	Jan Blanch	Anne Lovett	Emily Rudd	Nora Koleszar	Marisa Xuereb
Commentator	Bridget Sharp	Ron Burgess	Liz Malik	Cheryl Walsh	Peter Chin
Extraordinary	Vic Camilleri	Cecilia Coughlin	Frances Mathey	Jessica Russell	Alyce Chin
Ministers of	Terry Cooke	Margaret Eadie	Kaitlyn Crawford	Aimee Sands	+ Senior Server
The Eucharist	Nicole Murphy	Regina Fong	Molly Holland	Tom Sands	
	Diana Ball	Pam McCrae	Alan Dillon	Rosa Tropiano	
	Jan Blanch	Joy McHugh	Amanda Dillon	Patricia Anderson	
Altar	Lachlan Murphy		Cameron Moss	Alex Golden	Dylan Xuereb
Servers			Rowan Talbot	Gabby Golden	Jessica Xuereb
			Lily Talbot	Natasha Golden	Flowers:
			Sarah Selim		Carmel Xuereb
COUNTERS	ALTAR LINEN	ALTAR SOCIETY	CHILDRENS	PARISH BUS	HOSPITAL
<b>July 29</b> Fiona Eaton Lyn Beglin <b>August 5</b> Ron Begg Joyce Byrne	P/up July 22: Clem & Marie O'Donovan Ret'n July 26:	Des Hincksman Mary Brown Pauline Parsons	LITURGY School Holidays	<b>Driver:</b> Aaron Huckle <b>Helper:</b> Ellen McNally	VISITATION Eunice Dal Busco Laraine Rowe

meal with God. According to the garden story, we are SMARTLOVING MARRIAGE WEEKEND prone to behave badly and want to 'eat/consume' on our terms (the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil). As a counter to this the Bible then tells our story of God coming to lunch and how God behaves. When Abraham presents his offerings as host, the guests reply 'Do as you say'. As Abraham's quest God is happy to take what the host provides. The implied torah or teaching here is that when we are guests and God is the host, shouldn't we say and do likewise? It is significant that when the covenant at Mt Sinai is being sealed (Exodus 24) the people proclaim 'all that the Lord has spoken we will do' and a representative group enjoy a meal with God as host. Despite this they are soon exposed as failing to honour their commitment in the story of the golden calf. The same challenge faces us when we approach the Open to all married couples, the SMARTLoving weekend is a solution-Lord's supper where we are the guests and Jesus is our host

Rev Dr Mark O'Brien is a member of the Department of Biblical Studies at the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, and lectures in Old Testament studies. He is also a visiting lecturer at the Yarra Theological Union (Box Hill), and the United Faculty of Theology (Parkville). He is a priest of the Order of Preachers (known as the Dominicans).

## **READINGS NEXT SUNDAY**

#### SUNDAY, JULY, 28

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Gen 18:20-32 1st

Col 2:12-14 2nd Gospel -Luke 11:1-13

**MONDAY JULY 22** St Mary Magdalene.

**THURSDAY JULY 25** St James, Apostle

FRIDAY JULY 26



# **SEMINAR**



focused seminar that will equip you and your spouse to identify your unique love profile and learn practical ways to love more effectively. Whether you are in a stable marriage or a stressed one, you can consolidate strengths, overcome barriers, and move closer to being the couple you want to be. Take some time for yourselves and register for this weekend.

When: 21-22 September 2019

Venue: St Joseph's Retreat Centre, 33 Barina Downs Rd, Baulkham Hills

Time: 8:30am Saturday - 4:30pm Sunday Cost: \$445 per couple (accommodation and full catering) Registration: www.trybooking.com/BDEKL PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED. Enguiries: events@bbcatholic.org.au

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