

4 September 2022

**Twenty Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year C**



Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and
your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord
with your merciful love.

First Reading from the
book of Wisdom 9:13-18

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

Response: In every age,
O Lord, you have been our
refuge.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to Philemon
9-10, 12-17

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Let your
face shine on your
servant, and teach me
your laws. Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Luke 14: 25-33

Communion Antiphon
Ho-w great is the goodness,
Lord, that you keep for
those who fear you.

Next Week

**Twenty fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year C**

First: Ex 32:7-11. 13-14

Resp Ps: Ps 50:3-4. 12-13.
17. 19. R. Lk 15:18

Second: 1 Tm 1:12-17

Gospel: Lk 15:1-32

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand,
the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Listen to the Voice of Creation

A CATHOLIC LITURGICAL GUIDE



Introductory Comments

In recent years, under the leadership of Pope Francis, the Season of Creation has taken its place in the Catholic liturgical calendar, uniting Catholics worldwide with the 30-year Ecumenical/ Orthodox history of its celebration. The Season of Creation extends from September 1st, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to October 4th, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The Season focuses on God as Creator of the vast, cosmic universe, God's revelation in Creation, and our response to our calling to care for creation and address the urgent need to protect its rich diversity.

This year celebration of the Season of Creation comes amid a global series of environmental and social crises that make it impossible to ignore the urgency of its message, prayer, and work: record-setting heat waves killing people by the thousands around the planet, severe and long-term droughts, famine, massive wild fires and a never-ending fire "season," serious water shortages facing major cities, more violent storms and destructive flash floods in other regions, millions of climate-change refugees, and more....

The theme serving as a focus for this year's season is "Listen to the Voice of Creation." In choosing that, the Ecumenical Advisory Committee for the Season of Creation urges us to listen in our prayer and action for the human voices of those who have been silenced or are ignored: the poor and marginalized, the victims of environmental racism and climate change, indigenous peoples, people from cultures and life experiences that we do not normally encounter or seek to understand.

But the theme also extends to the voices of the other-than-human members of creation who cohabit Earth with us. Through millennia they too have learned to respond to changing contexts and have accumulated wisdom that they can convey to those able and willing to observe and "listen to" the messages they show us. Coming to understand and enter into this process is one of the greatest and most important challenges of this Season of Creation.

The first scripture reading, from Wisdom, in today's liturgy calls us to humility before the great Mystery we call God and to prayer for God's Spirit of Wisdom to guide us into right living within this great Web of Creation upon which we depend and of which we are a part. The second reading from St. Paul urges us to welcome as brothers and sisters in Christ people whose wisdom about creation has for ages been disregarded and who themselves have been marginalized and even enslaved. In the gospel, Jesus wants us to hear the seriousness and costs of discipleship in the face of these challenging conditions.

Happy Father's Day to all the Dad's in our parish family

Here we have the Christian religion's "father of all fathers" taking care of the "son of all sons". One assumes that a father is to provide for his wife and family. Regardless of how the modern family unit has been denigrated (if that is not too strong a word), the common belief is that the parent(s) are to take care and nurture the child(ren) of that union. If that is still to be taken as a base fact, then the "Holy Family", of which Joseph and Jesus were members, provides us with a platform upon which we can base our assumptions of what is now known as Father's Day. *Continue next page*

Contact us	Mass times	
Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirop OCD Parish Associate: Sr Ines Comiling, CM Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9.30am-12.30pm	Sunday Mass times	Weekday Mass times
	Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat Mass at 9am
	Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm
	Reconciliation: Saturday at 11am	All Sacramental enquiries: call the parish office

Rosters

11 September	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	David, Bev & Ryan	Anita & Jackie	Patricia
Altar Servers	Ryan & Amana	Orly & Carlos	Frank
Readers	Loretta & Gerard	Gabriel & Ofa	Gloria & Timothy
Refreshments	Riana & Suzanne	Nelia, Michelle & Tess	
CLOTW		Lee & Fev	
Flowers	Katalina & Tracey	Church Vacuuming	Kaur Family
Counters	Vilma & Jeanette	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Prayer intentions



For the sick & homebound: Amanda & John Meredith, John McDermott, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doreen Gribbons, Clayton Diack, Emily Rose Pavicin, Pat & Denise Furner, Tracey Bokor, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Erlinda Hermes, Aurelia Vertucio, Mary & Frances Raithi, Jeanna San Diego, Hugo Garzotto, Eileen Butcher,
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Joan Wilson, Nonato San Miguel, Wendy Wright, Benito Cossettini, Jerry Migus,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sam Wilson, Margaret and Joe Farrell, Anne Migus

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Happy Father's Day to all the Dad's in our parish family

It is really of no consequence to go into history to try and establish when, what we have today, was first "set in concrete", suffice to say that while the intention was well meant, (as with Mother's Day), the extension of that well-meaning has developed into full blown commercialism.

Only every so often in the mindless and endless tirade of advertising catalogues in the snail mail post, the television screens and phones are there any semblance of the "real" meaning of the day. Dad/father is depicted as a loving protector of the children in the catalogues and while the pipe and slippers image has disappeared due to the anti-cancer crusade against smoking, the message is still very clear...spend up big on your dad, give him multiple presents because he deserves it for the role he plays in guiding the family through the maze of difficult situations that confront the modern family. Most honourable! If we can cast our mind back to Joseph however, I hardly think the "Nazareth Times" would have been running specials of any sort. Any advertising done in any way shape or form would have been by personal example. It was the clearest and most striking way of demonstrating anything. Family values were no exception.

Remembering that there was some degree of confusion and, I dare say, "tittle tattle" surrounding Joseph and his fatherhood status, ("betrothed to a maiden called Mary") it was absolutely essential that whatever Joseph did, had to be "above board" to all the local townsfolk as that special family came into the town, settled down and began the ordinary process of living as all the other families in the town were doing. Nothing very much seems to be clearly known about the first 12 years of Jesus' life so that suggests that Joseph must have been doing a very good job at providing for his wife and son. Nothing untoward happened until "the Temple lectures".

In their house, Joseph must have been tutoring Jesus in the skills of woodworking, manners, social communications and reverence to their God. Perhaps it was these human qualities that Joseph instilled into Jesus in those early years – with the undeniable help of Mary – that led Jesus to develop an uncanny understanding of human behavioural traits.... which were to cause him so much anguish in his adult life.

As far as Joseph was concerned, he had discharged his duty as "head of the family" and perhaps the only present he ever got from Jesus (the human Jesus) was a wink and a smile when some client had bought a piece of crafted wood and was pleased with it. Sometimes a smile says more than any bought gift....Father's Day.

Laurie Mayne sosj.org.au



Bulletin Notices

Adoration is held every Sunday at 6.30pm online.

Faith Circles is on every Monday at 2pm and 6pm via zoom

Friendship Group is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.30am. This week Fr John Landy will be sharing about preparing ourselves spiritually towards the end of life.

Alliance of the 2 hearts Mass and devotion is held on the first Friday of each month at 7.30pm.

The Samoan Mass will be at 12 midday on the first Sunday of every 2 months; October and December 2022.

The Filipino Mass will be at 11.15am on the third Sunday of each month.

Confirmation preparation classes will be held every Saturday at 4pm until 11 September.

The Divine Mercy Devotion is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3pm.

Liturgy Committee meeting is held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Readers Inservice meeting is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

The Fundraising meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm via zoom

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long stretches that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Old Testament names and places.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, an eight part bible study, helps you uncover the story woven throughout the scripture, so you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it’s all about. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. 2 sessions will be held each week: Evening Group commences on **Tues Sept 6 at 7:30 pm** and the Morning Group on **Fri Sept 16 at 10:00 am**. Both groups will be held in the Parish Meeting Room. For more information visit ascensionpress.com, or contact the parish office at 9603 7373.

Altar Servers formation and training sessions for both junior and adult to commence on Saturday 10 Sept at 4:30 to 5:45pm. Existing and new Altar Servers are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to the parish office.

Hospitality Ministry Gathering: Saturday 17 September at 10am in the parish hall. This gathering is for parishioners who volunteer in the ministries of refreshments, monitors, wardens, cleaners, money counting and flower arranging. The meeting will include formation and a reflection on ministry. Anyone considering joining a ministry is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP your attendance to the parish office.

Chaldean Holy Mass at Oran Park: Fr David Catterall, Parish Priest, St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park, is pleased to announce that after a period of discussion with Archbishop Amel Nona DD - the Archbishop of the Chaldean Catholic Church – a Chaldean Holy Mass will commence on 11 Sept and will be celebrated every second Sunday (2nd and 4th Sun

of every month) at 12.30pm at St Mary MacKillop Church at Oran Park. This Mass will offer Chaldean Catholics residing in the diocese, especially the exponentially growing region of South-West Sydney, the opportunity to celebrate Mass in their own language and with their own customs and rituals. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 4648 2226 or email oranpark@dow.org.au.

The Journey, 4 September Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: Fr Mark De Battista in the Gospel reflection explains why Jesus makes such a strong point on being a disciple. Mother Hilda on using God’s SAT NAV system for our life’s journey. Plus, Fr Anthony Crook, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Dave Callaghan. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

Suicide Prevention: On Sat 10 Sept, we mark Suicide Prevention Day. The Saturday 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Brigid’s, Gwynneville will be offered by Bishop Brian Mascord for all families who have lost a loved one or who have taken their own life. We pray that those who have taken their own lives now rest in God’s peace. We pray for all vulnerable people who need someone to ask them ‘r u ok?’ For more info please contact the parish office on 4211 0500 or email lumenchristi@dow.org.au or facebook.com/lccpwooll.

Catechist Retreat 2022: All SRE teachers and helpers are welcome to attend the Catechist retreat planned for Mon, 12 Sept in Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville. Sr Magdalen Mather OSB will facilitate the retreats in both locations. With God’s help, Sr Magdalen will help us to move into an Ocean of Grace to be rejuvenated through prayer, contemplation and sharing with each other. Register for the retreat at dow.org.au/events or contact Cindy Oliver by emailing support@ccdwoollongong.com or calling 46408550.

Season of Creation Resources for Parishes: We are in the Season of Creation and there are some wonderful activities and resources for families delve into at <https://seasonofcreation.org>. Take the time as we move into Spring to pray, to plant, to recycle and enter into the awe and wonder we find in dwelling on and being in God’s creation.

menALIVE to the MAX2022 5pm Fri, 7 Oct – 2pm Sun 9 Oct, Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale. menALIVE to the MAX is a National Catholic Gathering of men called MAX 2022 it is Hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney (CAS) and menALIVE. The theme this year is-- RENEW/REFRESH/ RECONNECT. We desire to grow into the men we were made to be: better husbands, fathers, and men of God. There will be nothing in Australia this year like this! So come on: REassemble, REgather, to REbuild and REgain the REal you and the Fullness of Life. REjoice!! For costs and more information and to register <https://app.tickets.org.au/MA/MAX2022Syd>

Growing Good Men Father & Teenage Son Weekend Experience: Fri 6.30pm 21 Oct – Sun 1.30pm 23 Oct to be held at Cataract Activity Centre, Appin; A weekend experience for fathers and their teenage sons. One of the most important influences in the lives of men is the relationship they had with their father or significant father figure. Please Register and pay online at www.dow.org.au/events. Any enquiries please contact Helen Bennett on 4222 2403 or email helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Holy Gospel according to Luke 14:25-33

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Pope Francis

In today's Gospel Jesus insists on the conditions for being his disciples: preferring nothing to the love of Christ, carrying one's cross and following him. Many people in fact drew near to Jesus, they wanted to be included among his followers; and this would happen especially after some miraculous sign which accredited him as the Messiah, the King of Israel. However, Jesus did not want to disappoint anyone. He knew well what awaited him in Jerusalem and which path the Father was asking him to take: it was the Way of the Cross, the way of sacrificing himself for the forgiveness of our sins. Following Jesus does not mean taking part in a triumphal procession! It means sharing his merciful love, entering his great work of mercy for each and every person. The work of Jesus is, precisely, a work of mercy, a work of forgiveness and of love! Jesus is so full of mercy! And this universal pardon, this mercy, passes through the Cross. Jesus, however, does not want to do this work alone: he wants to involve us too in the mission that the Father entrusted to him. After the Resurrection he was to say to his disciples: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" ... if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven" (Jn 20:21-22). Jesus' disciple renounces all his possessions because in Jesus he has found the greatest Good in which every other good receives its full value and meaning: family ties, other relationships, work, cultural and economic goods and so forth.... The Christian detaches him or herself from all things and rediscovers all things in the logic of the Gospel, the logic of love and of service.

To explain this requirement, Jesus uses two parables: that of the tower to be built and that of the king going to war. The latter says: "What king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace". Jesus does not wish to address the topic of war here; it is only a parable. Yet at this moment in which we are praying intensely for peace, this word of the Lord touches us to the core, and essentially tells us: there is a more profound war that we must all fight! It is the firm and courageous decision to renounce evil and its enticements and to choose the good, ready to pay in person: this is following Christ, this is what taking up our cross means! This profound war against evil! What is the use of waging war, so many wars, if you aren't capable of waging this profound war against evil? It is pointless! It doesn't work.... Among other things this war against evil entails saying "no" to the fratricidal hatred and falsehood that are used; saying "no" to violence in all its forms; saying "no" to the proliferation of weapons and to the illegal arms trade. There is so much of it! So much of it! And the doubt always remains: is this war or that war — because wars are everywhere — really a war to solve problems or is it a commercial war for selling weapons in illegal trade? These are the enemies to fight, united and consistent, following no other interests than those of peace and of the common good.



"The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen, affecting the air we breathe and the weather we experience.... It is vanishing at a rate of about 20,000 square miles a year. At the current rate of deforestation, the Amazon region.... could be destroyed by the end of this century."