

5 February 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ord time

Year A



Entrance Antiphon

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the
God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading

from the the prophet
Isaiah 58:7-10

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 111:14-9. 4-5. 6-9. R. v.4

Response: A light rises in
the darkness for the
upright.

Second Reading from the
first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world,
says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 5:13-16

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are those who
mourn, for they shall
be consoled.
Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.

Next Week

6th Sunday in Ord Time
Year A

First: Sir 15:15-20

Resp Ps: 118:1-2,4-5.17-
18.33-34.R.v1

Second: 1 Cor 2:6-10

Gospel: Mt 11:25

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.



One of the primary ways in which the faithful honour God's Word in the liturgy is by faithfully listening to the proclamation of the readings and the homily, and by discerning the various ways in which God's Word applies to their lives.

Within the liturgical celebration itself, the Church's General Instruction of the Roman Missal (2012) offers concrete guidelines for honouring God's Word at Mass. One most visual sign is proclaiming the Word from a dignified Lectionary or a specially decorated Book of the Gospels at the ambo (cf. GIRM 349).

Holding the Book of the Gospels aloft during the entrance procession and carrying the Book from the Mass altar to the ambo during the singing of the Gospel Acclamation is a way of highlighting the Lord's Word to be proclaimed.

Incensing the open Book of the Gospels and arranging servers to hold lighted candles on either side of the ambo are ways of reverencing the sacredness and light of Christ's presence during the proclamation of the Gospel.

As a sign of love for Christ and his message, the Book containing the Gospel reading is also kissed by the priest or deacon after the reading, like the altar which is venerated by the presiding celebrant at the beginning and end of Mass (cf. GIRM 123, 134, 169).

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis* (30 September 2019) suggests that on Sunday of the Word of God, the book containing God's Word might be "enthroned" or given due honour in the church. It is a point also made in Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* (2010) n. 68, so the faithful can reflect upon God's Word.

An important point to remember here is the Second Vatican Council's insight that Christ's presence is recognised in the actual "proclamation" of the Word, when the Church believes that Christ is present and speaking to those assembled through the words of the Church's minister [*Sacrosanctum concilium* (1963) art. 7], rather than in the physical book itself.

Aperuit Illis also reminds us that for many centuries before being written down, God's Word was passed down orally from one generation to another. Therefore the actions of proclamation, listening and heeding God's Word are still accorded high priority.

The other ways in which due honour might be given to God's Word including placing the Lectionary or Book of the Gospels on a significant stand near the ambo or entry to the church, in a dedicated side chapel or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, for people to read.

Prepared by Dr Paul Taylor, Former Director of the National Office for Liturgy

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Emmanuel Vella, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: June Wrightman, Sandra Bastoli, Marites Sitjar, Ron Allen, Norly Tuyor, Lydia Fajardo, Lily Pereira.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Paul Thompson, Anthony Selvaraj, Mary Gardner, Hilda Young, John Peter Francis, Lio Feiloakitohi

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



Our Community: Rosters

12 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Monitors	Glen & Arlene	Sarah, Violetti & Martin	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Robert
Readers	Suzanne & Margaret	Tess & Aida	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Emmarie, Suzanne, Berna	Karen, Katalina, Tess	
CLOTW		Emma & Asinate	
Flowers	Katalina	Church Vacuuming	Tess & Jacinta
Counters	Irene, Ruby & Cynthia	Foyer Cleaning	Tess

Our Community

Parish Vision: LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER: Opportunities:

Develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter— a study group to satisfy your thirst! First session meets in Parish Meeting Room on Thursday 9 Feb 10am til 12:30pm then conclude on either March 16 or March 23 to allow us to respond to the needs of the group. The First Session covers an **Introduction and History of the Season of Lent** and **The Sundays of Lent**. The sessions are facilitated by Colleen Haughey and are based on video presentations by Fr John Baldovin. All are welcome.



Bulletin Notices

Lenten Reflection Groups You are invited to consider **leading and/ or hosting a Lenten Group in your home** as part of **Parish renewal**. All resources are provided by Diocese and you will be assisted in any way you need. This is a wonderful way to share faith and life with those living in your area. We have set a goal of having 12 Lenten groups this year offering various times to meet for 90 minutes in the 6 weeks beginning with Ash Wednesday week 19th Feb. Some groups will run in the parish meeting room but times are limited. The booklets will soon be available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.

Parish Pastoral Council is accepting Expressions of Interest for new members.

In our Parish we have 2 Leadership Committees who meet regularly to plan for and give direction to our Ministry Teams and **The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** is responsible for creating and shaping and monitoring the overall Parish Vision, Mission and Pastoral Plan.

Friendship Group will commence on Tuesday 7 February for morning tea after the 9am Mass. All are most welcome to come along at that time.

The Family Fun Night that was postponed in October will be held on **Saturday 11 February 2023 at 7pm in the parish hall**. Tickets are still available for purchase and all those who purchased tickets previously will be contacted to confirm they are able to attend the new date.

The Journey Weekly Podcast On The Journey This Week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Chris de Sousa says we are salt and the light to those immediately around us. Mother Hilda shares a story on trust and how God also places trust in us. Plus, Stewart Brady from MenAlive, Trish McCarthy, and Fr Dave Callaghan. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

A vocation view

'I resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.' In the Cross is our salvation, proclaim that salvation in all you do! (1 Cor 2:2) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Roll up your sleeves; make a difference overseas Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities abroad are asking for qualified and experienced Australians able to mentor their people in education, health, administration, trades, agriculture and more. Imagine yourself re-engaging your vocational passion in Africa, Asia or the Pacific. Since 1961 Palms Australia has been recruiting Australians able to offer mentoring that will allow overseas counterparts opportunities otherwise unattainable. Sharing your skills will strengthen the capacity of workers overseas to serve their communities for generations to come, long after you return home. Communities in American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand,

Timor-Leste, and Zambia are seeking to fill a variety of roles. Enquire about those roles via www.palms.org.au or by calling 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

We're always here if you ever need... These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au

Social Justice Statement - We believe that respect, dignity and justice, transformation and hope are possible. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

menALIVE's—reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling Sessions—Every Tuesday 7.30pm; reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to: break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise “catch up” with great men from across Australia and New Zealand. gain strength and inspiration by the witness of other men & pray as a group for individual needs and the needs of others. Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>

Formed (Free for DoW Parishioners) Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au

Faith Circles—free small group resource:

Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals and small groups to come together in Parishes. In doing so it assists in the development of faith and community. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

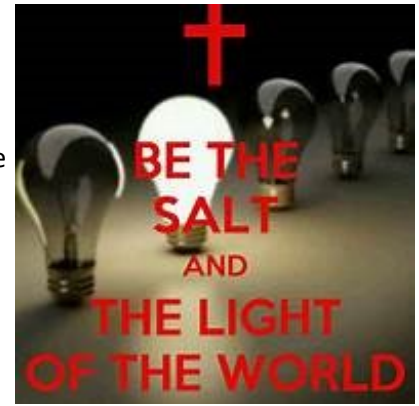
An invitation to join **electronic parish planned giving** from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient, and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue, or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://dow.sh/parishgiving> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



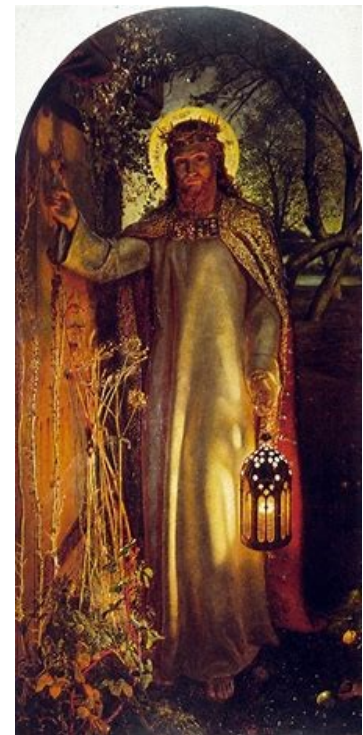
Reflection by Pope Francis

Jesus invites us to be a reflection of his light, by witnessing with good works. He says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven". These words emphasize that we are recognizable as true disciples of the One who is the Light of the World, not in words, but by our works. Indeed, it is above all our behaviour that — good or bad — leaves a mark on others. Therefore, we have a duty and a responsibility towards the gift received: the light of the faith, which is in us through Christ and the action of the Holy Spirit; and we must not withhold it as if it were our property. Instead we are called to make it shine throughout the world, to offer it to others through good works. How much the world needs the light of the Gospel which transforms, heals and guarantees salvation to those who receive it! We must convey this light through our good works.

The light of our faith, in giving of oneself, does not fade but strengthens. However it can weaken if we do not nourish it with love and with charitable works.

In this way the image of *light* complements that of *salt*. The Gospel passage, in fact, tells us that, as disciples of Christ, we are also "the salt of the earth". Salt is an ingredient which, while it gives flavour, keeps food from turning and spoiling — in Jesus' time there were no refrigerators! Thus, Christians' mission in society is that of giving "flavour" to life with the faith and the love that Christ has given us, and at the same time, keeping away the contaminating seeds of selfishness, envy, slander, and so on. These seeds degrade the fabric of our communities, which should instead shine as places of welcome, solidarity and reconciliation. To fulfil this mission, it is essential that we first free ourselves from the corruptive degeneration of worldly influences contrary to Christ and to the Gospel; and this purification never ends, it must be done continuously; it must be done every day!

Each one of us is called to be *light and salt*, in the environment of our daily life, persevering in the task of regenerating the human reality in the spirit of the Gospel and in the perspective of the Kingdom of God. May there always be the helpful protection of Mary Most Holy, first disciple of Jesus and model for believers who live their vocation and mission each day in history. May our Mother help us to let ourselves always be purified and enlightened by the Lord, so as to become, in our turn, "salt of the earth" and "light of the world".



Jesus Light of the World
Painting by William Holman