

Ministry Roster.

This Week: 3rd Sunday, Yr A (22/1.) Next Week: 4th Sunday, Ordinary Time, Yr A.(29/1).

Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM.
<u>Acolyte</u>	R Kemmis.	Gerald V.	R Kemmis.	P Doherty.
<u>Commentator:</u>	C Rannaste.	C Day.	T Burgheim	Volunteer
<u>Reader:</u>	J McInerney.	K Powell.	Volunteer.	K Pattenden
<u>Flowers:</u>	K Powell.		P Currie.	
<u>Cleaning:</u>	L Blahut & M David.		L Beaman & P Currie.	

If you are unable to carry out your ministry please organise a replacement or call Richard on the Parish phone number listed on the first page of this bulletin.

You are invited to join **Dr Laurie Woods**, spiritual writer and Scripture scholar, for an interactive exploration of: **Living the Spirituality of Matthew's Gospel in 2023. Saturday 25th February, 9am-12.30 pm** Parish Hall, Emu Plains. **RSVP** 18 February to Jim Potts 0421 125 722.

Toongabbie Parish Position Vacant.

St Anthony of Padua Parish, Toongabbie, is advertising for a Sacramental/SRE Coordinator. The successful applicant will be in charge of the Sacramental Program, the Special Religious Education (SRE) Program and provide administrative assistance to the Parish Priest and Parish Secretary. Hours will be 18 hours per weeks worked over 3 days. Please forward applications and resumes to the parish Secretary by 1 February

Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023.

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs

Supporting your Parish.

Thank you for your contributions to both the first and second collections, credit card using the Tap and Go machine or by EFT to the Parish bank account. The First Collection is used by the Diocese to pay all Diocesan Clergy so that they are all supported equally.

The Second Collection is used to pay the costs of running our Parish. This collection now is 80% of the amount that was being collected before Covid 19 lockdown. This means at that level (80%) the Parish is operating at a deficit. If that situation continues, we will not be able to continue long as a Parish.

It is appreciated that some Parishioners are on fixed incomes (pensioners, young families, etc.) are giving all they can. However, we ask those that can afford to, increase their support of the Parish.

The Parish needs to increase its weekly collections by about \$400, which when split over the parishioners that can afford it is between \$5 to \$10 extra a week.

Please consider increasing your contributions to support the Parish so we can return to surplus.

Fr Paul.



Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**

Phone: **4759 1034 or 0418 214 548.**

Email: lawson@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316.

Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0415 077 969.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.

Weekend Masses: **Saturday 5:00 PM & Sunday 8:30 AM.**

Weekday Masses: **Weekday Masses will resume in late January.**

Masks are now recommended and we do not have any limits on capacity anymore. Baptisms: First & Third Saturdays at 11:00 AM. **Weddings:** Call the office & six months notice. **Funerals:** Call the office.

The Good Life.

Jesus took special notice of the "disadvantaged" people, as our culture likes to call them. On Sunday we will hear him explain that the most blest people are the poor [in spirit], the ones who grieve, the ones who are meek, the ones hungry and thirsty for fairness ["righteousness"], the merciful, and the peacemakers.

It is easier to see why the peacemakers and the merciful and the ones hungering for fairness deserve blessedness. These are people we already admire. But the poor? And those who grieve? Oh, and I forgot about the ones whom people insult and persecute and utter every kind of evil falsely against because of Jesus.

Ouch.

Most of us would have compiled just the opposite list. Blest are you if you are rich. Blest are you if never have to grieve over losing someone you love. Blest are you if you are admired and free of enemies and spoken well of at all times. Don't these sound much more like the good life we want for ourselves and our friends?

Yes, in a way. But isn't there a danger in these wonderful sounding states of life. Riches and honor can be lures that lead away from love. If I am rich I am tempted to let that be my identity, external though it is. If I am highly admired I might well be enticed to believe that I actually am what people say about me. Either of these can lead to pride, which in this case means paying attention only to myself and what pleases me.

If this happens, and if it leads to the bad kind of pride, still a quiet voice inside us will cry, "I am your real self and you have covered me over. You are smothering me. Help!"

God loves each of us in this "real self." It is the part of us that God knows best and loves most. God calls us to be what we really are, persons who are loved as we are, and who love in return. What we own, how honored we feel, how swollen up with pride we are—these are undependable. They get in the way, sometimes tragically. God's Spirit dwells deeper within us, and if we learn to live from that inner spot we will find we are living lives of peace and fruitfulness.

That is why the beatitudes make deep sense. If we do learn to live from the home within us, we will find God's love there. And we will find also love of others, comfortably dwelling with it. This will be true even if poverty and insults are our external condition.

John Foley, SJ



**Recently Deceased:
Anniversaries:**

Sick: Rob Nickl, Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Moira Sattler, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Eamonn Spellman, Sienna Erdmanis, Max Dodd, and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

THIS WEEK'S READINGS.

First Reading

[Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13](#)

There will be a people who remain sheltered from God's anger.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalms 146:6-10](#)

The Lord is faithful forever.

Second Reading

[1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#)

God chooses the weak to show his power.

Gospel Reading

[Matthew 5:1-12a](#)

Jesus teaches what it means to be happy.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy, fortunate, or favoured*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY

SCHOOL

7 Somers Street, Lawson.

Phone: 4753 2200. Email:

oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

SANTA MARIA

CONFERENCE CENTRE

Available for meetings,
functions and
conferences. Phone
Sr Veronica on 4759 1116.

2022-23 Social Justice Statement "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse"

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2022-23 "Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse" invites us to engage with a complex and challenging social reality: domestic and family violence and abuse. The Australian Bishops call for all people to take part in the individual and social transformation needed so all people can live in safety. Download the statement at www.bit.ly/SJS22-23

Catholic Earthcare Parishes Programs.

Catholic Earthcare Australia now makes it easy for parishes to take up the Australian Bishops' invitation from the 2021-22 Social Justice Statement to join them in pursuing seven Laudato Si' Goals towards more sustainability. The Earthcare Parishes Program offers ideas and guidance. Find out more and register for an Earthcare Audit at catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-parishes

Preparation for the Sacraments of both Reconciliation and First Communion will commence on February 16th 2023. If you have not already registered your interest in the preparation program for your child (In **year 4** or above) you are now welcome to register with the Sacramental Coordinator Maureen Ryan olon254@gmail.com as soon as possible, then you will receive a list of all the dates involved.

All enquiries welcome.

Maureen Ryan.

Glenbrook Parish Shroud of Turin Presentation and Talk: 21 February.

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a presentation by local parishioner and former journalist William West on the Shroud of Turin on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm. William will discuss the history of the Shroud, which he explores in his book *Riddles of the Shroud – Questions Science Can't Answer*. Entry is via gold coin donation. To RSVP, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au