

Ministry Roster.

	<u>This Week: 6th Sunday Easter Yr B (5/5).</u>		<u>The Ascension of the Lord Yr B, (12/5.)</u>	
<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Vigil</u>	<u>8:30AM.</u>	<u>Vigil</u>	<u>8:30 AM.</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	R Kemmis.	G Verhoeven.	C Rannaste.	P Doherty.
<u>Commentator:</u>	C Rannaste.	T Griffiths.	Volunteer.	K Pattenden.
<u>Readers.</u>	J McInerney.	Cathy V G.	J McInerney.	K Powell.
<u>Flowers:</u>	J Gannon(Baptism).		M Dodd.	
<u>Cleaning:</u>	L Blahut & M Kundukulam.		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 before COB Fridays(5:00PM).

Volunteer Counting Teams.

We are keen to get back to our pre covid counting teams. Fr Paul would like at least four or five counting teams of two people to count the collection after 8:30 AM Mass on Sunday and leave the cash in the vessels safe for banking on Monday morning.

Please email or call the office during business hours.

Christ the King Primary Jubilee Celebrations .

Staff, students, families and parishioners past and present are invited to celebrate the golden jubilee of Christ the King Primary School, North Rocks.

A Jubilee Family Picnic will be held on Sunday 19 May at Don Moore Reserve, North Rocks, from 11.30am. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/k6hua7LiwZKBMP3o6>
A Jubilee Dinner (over 18s) will be held on 29 June at The Epping Club, Epping, from 6pm. Cost is \$99 per person and includes food and beverages. Tables are of 10-12 attendees. You can RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/hmeBwoEM9qusMhG87>

For any further information, please contact Erin Wynne, at ewynne@parra.catholic.edu.au

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day: 19 May .

You are invited to a Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day on Sunday 19 May from 10am to around 3pm at St Benedict's Monastery, 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. There will be an introduction to Christian Meditation for newcomers with periods of meditation for ongoing meditators, presentations and prayer with the monks. Mass will be celebrated in the afternoon. Morning tea will be provided, but please bring your own picnic lunch. Donations are welcome. For enquiries, please contact Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or call 0437 340

Creative Mondays are back. Next meeting Monday May

13, 10.30 - 2.30 in the Santa Maria Hall. Following dates

May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, & November 11.

Enquiries to Sr Veronica 0419 532 303.

*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 - 0418 461 316.

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

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

WEEKDAY MASSES : Vigil Tuesday 5:00 PM. Wednesday 9:00 AM & Thursday

9:30 AM. Baptisms: First & Third Saturdays at 11:00 AM. **Weddings:** Call the office & six months notice.

Funerals: Call the office. **BENEDICTION: First Fridays(Except May 2024.) 7:00 PM.**

Abide My Love (Jn15: 9-17)

This Gospel spells out my experience of God's love. This cornerstone of Jesus' love and hence God's love colours everything in my faith life. My relationship with Jesus is now more valuable to me than being a member of the Catholic Church. Though my membership of the flawed Church is now much more important. Previously there were times when I felt that I was never good enough, my faith was not strong enough, I was not sorry enough, and I was not generous enough.

It was through some young people in the Catholic Scripture class who taught me that the love of Jesus cancels those "not enoughs". Many years ago, as a first time SRE teacher I was looking for ways of answering these teens questions about God such as: Is there a God? Who is going to hell? Will God punish sinners? Not knowing where to start I put aside the lesson on the ten commandments and delved into the life and teachings of Jesus..

I cannot remember what I taught the young people but our classes were always lively and interesting. It was what I learnt that stayed with me. I was left with the knowledge that Jesus is loving and wants to heal and forgive us all. Jesus teachings and especially his actions turned me away from the sin counting, judgemental being of absolute power that I had been trying to placate since my childhood.

Of course, I haven't got it all together yet. I occasionally suffer from the "not enoughs." Whilst laying down our lives definitely sounds scary, but then I realise that all of us lay down our lives lots of times when we help and support our families, friends and sometimes those we do not even know. I continue to give thanks for the love of my friend, God. I will keep asking God in Jesus name to help us all to bear the fruit of that love. In that way our joy and God's joy will be enough.

Maureen Ryan.

**Recently Deceased:
Anniversaries:**

Sick: Rob Nickl, Lan Franco Matteucci, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Eamonn Spellman, Sienna Erdmanis, Kees Van Der Donk, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennett 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.*

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4. A song of praise for God's salvation

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10. God is love.

Gospel Reading

John 15:9-17. Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

Background on the Gospel Reading.

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

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.

Recent Baptisms.

We welcome baby Naiden Joey to our Christian Community. He is the little son of Nirmal Hewa Kankanamage and Nishani Cooray.

We also congratulate Indigo Starr (12 years) and Lewin Starr (10 years) who were baptised through the Rite of Christian Adults Adapted for Children liturgy. They prepared with enthusiasm for a couple of months and so Indigo and Lewin made their own choices to become Catholic Christians. Their most important guests were their parents David and Imogen.

Let us pray for these young ones as they make their Christian journeys and as they grow in understanding of God's love help them to become more like Christ each day.

**Single Mum's 'Prayers Answered' – Where There's Care There's Hope**

My daughter needed support; she was a little bit down, in a new school, in a new area. We knew no-one.



We have received really practical help, as well as help with emotions and with healing. I asked for help in building her relationship with me, and with her daddy. Catholic Care has been sitting with us, listening to us, and that means a lot.

Lucy* (Pseudonym) Single Mum

Lawson Parish is collecting non - perishable food and toiletries.

Please put your donations into strong shopping bags and you may bring them to the church on the weekends of 18th/19th May or 25th /26th May.

Please Join in this important work of Catholic social welfare

First Communion Preparation commences on the 8th of May with a parents evening. If your child is in year 3 or above and has already celebrated his/her First Reconciliation (First Confession), he/she is welcome to join our First Communion program. Please contact Maureen Ryan olon254@gmail.com or ring 0403 931 782 to apply to enrol or make enquiries.