

Ministry Roster.

	<u>This Week: 5th Sunday Easter Yr B (28/4).</u>		<u>6th Sunday Easter Yr B, (5/4.)</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.	T Burgheim.	P Gannon
<u>Readers.</u>	J McInerney.	Cathy V G.	M Golez.	M Kundukulam.
<u>Flowers:</u>	P Currie.		J Gannon (Baptism).	
<u>Cleaning:</u>	T Griffiths & G Hitchen.		L Blahut.& M Kundukulam.	

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).

Synod 2023 Update: Decree issued and Development of Diocesan Plan Begins.

In January, the Synodal Decree from our inaugural Diocesan Synod was issued, enabling us to move forward in the development of a Diocesan Plan. Join us in the next phase of our journey, as we discern a new path forward for our local Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The Diocesan Plan for a Synodal Church will launch at the Diocesan Gathering on Saturday 10 August. Learn more at parracatholic.org/synod

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralized event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today.

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

8, 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.**

As I gaze over my verandah, I see my rose garden. Flourishing, yes, fragrant, colourful, lush but in need of some serious TLC, and a pruning job that is likely to take me the better part of a whole day.

I am no gardener but if one is blessed to have a garden, then cutting back is a necessary task, both time consuming and tiring for the work it entails, yet also filled with anticipation and hope of a more beautiful, healthier and fruitful environment.

I endeavour with this work both for myself and for my roses.

If it is not done, there shall be little to encourage the buds and blossoms, beauty, colours and fragrance in the coming seasons.

There is no blossoming without the care, no joy without the anticipation, no satisfaction without the hard work.

Jesus, in His wisdom, chose the vine to teach about God's enveloping love - the vine which needs nurture, care, and pruning to produce its fruit and continue to flourish; fruit that feeds our hunger and thirst, that gives us a purpose to work and rest, provides hope and encourages perseverance, and gives us courage to be resilient against the elements.

Just like the vine, we too need our occasional pruning - the sometimes uncomfortable or painful removal of old ideas or habits, the need to stop and remember that what God gives us is what we need, even when it isn't what we want, that life changes and continues, and that somehow God guides us to grow in ways we did not know we were able to.

We know that cutting back our vines and roses, pruning our gardens, is a necessary and regular endeavour for the promise of something better, stronger and more abundant.

Is it not the same with us?

Maria Dodd.



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Darug and Gundungarra People and their elders - the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather.

**Recently Deceased:****Anniversaries:** . Max Dodd (19 4 2023.)

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 9:26-31.* Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.**Responsorial Psalm***Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32.* he whole world shall praise the Lord.**Second Reading***1 John 3:18-24.* God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.**Gospel Reading***John 15:1-8.* Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbour. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

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.



Drop in for a free cuppa and chat, to access community information, food support, public-use computers and digital tech help.

Individual, children's and family counselling, financial and problem gambling counselling also available, plus a number of wellbeing groups. Vinnies here weekly and access to NILS fortnightly.

For more information or to make an appointment call (02) 8843 2545 or pop in Monday to Thursday 10am - 4pm.

Everyone is welcome irrespective of your religious beliefs.

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

with thanks from Our Lady of Nativity Parish Team

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.

Those that have recently been involved in our 2024 Sacramental programs are already automatically enrolled.

Maureen Ryan for the Sacramental Team