

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 July 2023



Readings for
this week:

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16
Romans 6:3-4,8-11
Matthew 10:37-42



Readings for
next Sunday:

Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9,11-13
Matthew 11:25-30



Liturgical Jottings

Letter to the Romans (2)

The main topic of this letter is salvation through faith (Rom 1:16-11:36). A solemn declaration serves as a preamble to chapters one to eleven: the same salvation through faith is offered to all human beings, Jews or Pagans (Rom 1:16-17). The theme is then developed in four steps: 1. The whole of humankind, submerged in sin, is saved by the grace God grants in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:18-5:23). 2. Humankind is one in the death caused by Adam's sin; it is one also in the salvation that the risen Christ, who is the second Adam, gains for all. 3. Formerly slaves of the Law and unable to fulfil it, believers are freed by the gift of the Spirit, who makes of them children of God (Rom 7:1-8:39). 4. Since salvation through faith in Jesus extends to all human beings, Israel, now separated from the Lord, will be one day integrated into his risen body (Rom 9:1-11:32).

The letter was delivered to the Roman by Phoebe, a follower of St Paul and a deaconess at Cenchreae (Rom 16:1).

Looking at the Readings

The demands of discipleship can be very difficult. The strength that is needed to continue on the chosen path despite its hardships can come only from God. We live in a world that desperately needs to hear the call to conversion, but it is a world that is subject to the death that entered it through the sin of Adam. Those who answer the call of God may have to face the hostility of this world, because their values and their commitment to righteousness threaten its moorings. To commit oneself to the reign of God is to challenge the reign of the world, and this can make one very unpopular. In the midst of this suffering we can find strength in the promises of God, and we believe that God is faithful to these promises.

Only half of today's picture is bleak. The other half is radiant with hope. Paul assures us that the gracious gift that God offers us is far greater than the transgressions brought on by sin. This gracious gift is Jesus Christ himself. The gift exceeds anything for which we might have hoped. He is the comfort that will carry us through our disappointments. He is the strength that will enable us to endure the misunderstanding and hardship that come with discipleship. We are called to acknowledge him before the world, and we are promised that if we do, he will acknowledge us before God. There is light even in the midst of darkness. There is hope even in the midst of suffering. © Dianne Bergant CSA.

Quote of the Week

Hospitality means we take people into the space that is our lives and our minds and our hearts and our work and our efforts. Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step towards dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time.

Joan D. Chittister

Prayer for the Day:

Father, your incarnate Word commands our obedience and offers us true life. Make our ears attentive to the voice of your Son and our hearts generous in answering his call, that we may take up the cross with trust in his promises.


On the Lighter Side

Some more humour from the Roman archives: What did the Latin teacher say to the student who was having a lot of trouble finishing his astronomy project? "Ad astra per aspera."

What happens to Latin teachers when they retire? They just decline.

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	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Dorothy Bock, Tom Collins
	Our sick and their carers	Santo Vraca, Josie Anderson, Bernie Maher, Bill Moroney, May Turvey,

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 9 th July	Rob Miller	Shelia Gregg	D Corrigan	D Phelan	Connie Serra	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 15 th July	Carol Coulston	Mary Vraca	S Gregg	TBC	N/A	Mary Gale
Sun 10:30 am 16 th July	Rob Miller	Denice Bourke	D Turvey	A Basile M Sgammotta	Anna Ciavarella	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 23 rd July	Carol Coulston	Anne-Marie Nihill	D Phelan	S Gregg M Vraca	Denice Bourke	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 30 th July	Rob Miller	Mary Gale	D Corrigan	Steve & Simone De Lai	Ross Kelly	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

Two Week Mass Timetable Week commencing 3 July

Weekday Mass

Mon 3rd July No Mass
 Tue 4th July No Mass
 Wed 5th July 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 6th July No Mass
 Fri 7th July 9:15 am Mas

Weekend Mass

Sat 8th July No Mass
 Sun 9th July 10:30 am

Weekday Mass

Mon 10th July No Mass
 Tue 11th July No Mass
 Wed 12th July 9:15 am Mass
 Thur 13th July No Mass
 Fri 14th July 9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Sat 15th July 6:00 pm Mass
 Sun 16th July 10:30 am Mass

Reconciliation 5 August

"perhaps even letting go of earthly relationships"

FR JOSHUA WHITEHEAD

This week on the Journey (Ep 517)

On the Journey this week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says we need to let go of that we value the most to live life to the full. Mother Hilda wants us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus so that life will be easier. Plus, Mark Raue from Catholic Mission in conversation with Journey Editor, Max Norden, Fr Mike Delaney tells of his experience of greeting strangers on the street during his daily walks, and more great music!

Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime

Rosario italiano

Il Rosario italiano si terrà venerdì 14 luglio alle ore 14 in Chiesa. Tutti sono invitati a partecipare.

Italian Rosary

The Italian Rosary will be held on Friday 14 July at 2pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

Ladies Cuppa and Chat

Everyone is invited to join the ladies for a Cuppa and Chat.

Date: Wednesday 5th July 2023,

Time: 2pm

Venue: St Mary's Hall.

Please bring a plate to share.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Romans 6:8

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 29TH JULY 2023

**Special Mass at 5pm followed
by a special parish gathering.**

ATSI Sunday 2nd July

Every year, on the first Sunday in July, Catholics come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. Today, we acknowledge that God has been walking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, making His Presence known through a continuous living culture over many thousands of years. This day also marks the start of NAIDOC Week, a time for celebrating Indigenous culture across the Australian community.

For a range of information about First Nations people and the Catholic Church go to <http://www.natsicc.org.au/>

SPECIAL BUCKET COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR PETER'S PENCE

St Peter and Paul (29 June), which is the customary date for a collection in support of the Holy Father (also known as Peter's Pence). This is one of the appeals that are listed as an annual collection on the Diocesan Fundraising Policy (attached), and should therefore be conducted in each parish of the diocese around this time. It is an opportunity for us to show in a very practical way our support and appreciation for the Pope's ministry in the Church and for his powerful witness in the world.

This collection is used for two primary purposes:

- to support the Pope's service of the universal Church, carried out by the Dicasteries that assist him in evangelization, the promotion of integral human development, education, communication, etc.;
- to contribute to numerous charitable works directly assisting the most in need (people and families in distress, populations hit by natural disasters or war, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or development support).



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLICS IN AUSTRALIA

First Nations Catholics are the youngest and fastest growing demographic in the Australian Catholic Church.



135,681

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics



4.6%

The percentage of Catholic population aged under 5



10

The number of Dioceses which have over one-fifth of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who identify as Catholic



8.2%

The percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics aged under 5

Top three

Parishes

with the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

1

Wadeye
(Darwin)

2,078

2

Dubbo
(Bathurst)

1,787

3

Broome
Cathedral
(Broome)

1,581

Dioceses

with the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

1

Brisbane

16,474

2

Darwin

9,671

3

Maitland-
Newcastle

8,436

with the highest percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

1

Palm Island
(Townsville)

98.5%

2

Dubbo
(Bathurst)

97.3%

3

Melville Island
(Darwin)

96.4%

1

Broome

62.7%

2

Darwin

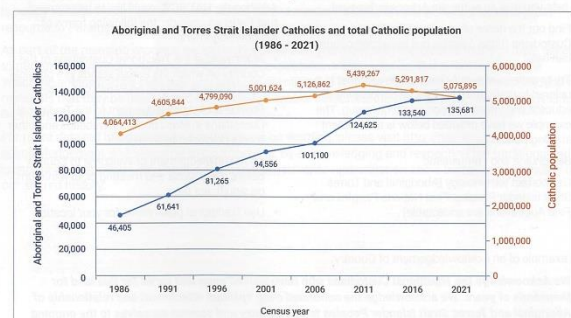
24.8%

3

Wilcannia-
Forbes

13.8%

2016 Census



Notes:

Prepared by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project. Data is sourced from the 2021 Census unless specified.

Data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for some years and prior to 1971 is not recorded here due to the poor quality of data collected.

Themes for 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time encourage us to make our relationship with God first in all we do. The first reading recounts how a woman provided hospitality to Elisha and was rewarded for her generosity. The psalm reminds us that all of the good things in our lives come from God. And in the gospel Jesus tells us that we must stop clinging to our own self-interests in order to follow him.

Discipleship and Priority: Jesus emphasizes the supreme importance of following Him wholeheartedly, even if it means putting Him above family relationships. He challenges His disciples to prioritize their commitment to Him above all else.

Cost of Discipleship: Jesus acknowledges that following Him may result in division and conflict within families, highlighting the potential sacrifices and challenges that disciples may face for their faith.

Love for Jesus: Jesus calls His disciples to love Him above all, indicating the depth of devotion and allegiance required in discipleship.

Taking Up the Cross: Jesus instructs His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him, signifying the willingness to bear the burdens and endure hardships that come with following Christ.

Hospitality and Reception: Jesus encourages His disciples to show hospitality and receive others in His name, emphasizing the importance of caring for and supporting fellow believers and those who proclaim the message of the Gospel.

Reward and Recognition: Jesus assures His disciples that even the smallest acts of kindness and service done in His name will not go unnoticed by God, promising a reward and recognition in the kingdom of heaven.

Reflection Questions for 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

- In the first reading for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, the woman recognized Elisha as a prophet and showed him hospitality. How can we cultivate a spirit of recognition and hospitality towards those who carry God's message in our lives today?
- The woman's act of hospitality led to the fulfillment of God's promise in her life. How have you

experienced God's blessings through acts of hospitality or generosity towards others?

- Consider the prophets and messengers of God who have influenced your faith journey. How can you express gratitude for their presence and the wisdom they have shared?
- Reflect on a time when you may have been hesitant or reluctant to welcome someone into your life or extend hospitality. How might this reflection encourage you to be more open and receptive to God's messengers in the future?
- What are some practical ways you can demonstrate hospitality to those around you, recognizing the presence of God in their lives and responding with love and kindness?
- In what ways can we create a culture of hospitality within our faith communities and families, where all individuals feel recognized, welcomed, and valued?
- In the gospel for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Jesus warns His disciples about the challenges and rejection they will face in their mission. How can we find courage and strength in the face of adversity when proclaiming the truth of the Gospel?
- What are some ways we can ensure that our priorities align with God's will and that nothing takes precedence over our commitment to Him?
- How do the readings challenge our understanding of family and its relationship to our discipleship? How can we strike a balance between our responsibilities towards our families and our devotion to God?
- Take a moment to prayerfully consider how you can align your priorities with God's will and deepen your devotion to Him, seeking His guidance and grace in all aspects of your life.

Tatura Hospital & Parkvillia Aged Care Facility Ladies Auxiliary

Annual General Meeting 27th July 2023 at 2pm

The Ladies Auxiliary is inviting all Sacred Heart Parishioners to attend the AGM on Thursday 27th July at 2pm in St Mary's Hall.

Guest Speak will be Claire Ewart-Kennedy from GV Health Foundation.

Afternoon team will be provided.

Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of year. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside First Nation Australians in truth, justice, and reconciliation.