



St Matthew's Catholic Parish



(Established 1831)

12 Tebbutt Street, Windsor, NSW 2756

Telephone: (02) 4577 3073

Our Parish Mission Statement:

We believe and live out the mission of Jesus Christ as a community of worship and faith shared in service.

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: *Fr Ranillo Creta*
Sacramental Coordinator: *Ms Cita Adams*
Parish Secretary: *Ms Judy Rigg*
Parish email: windsor@parracatholic.org
www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au
Office hours next week: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Schools:

St Matthew's Primary Phone: 4560 2300
Acting Principal: Mr Ben Ticehurst
Chisholm Catholic Primary Phone: 4573 3200
Principal: Mr Michael Mifsud
Bede Polding College Phone: 4560 2900
Acting Principal: Mr David Sullivan

Masses:

Next Weekend:

Sat. Vigil 6.00pm
Sun. 7.30am, 9.00am and 5pm

Weekday:

Monday to Saturday 9.00am

Adoration:

Tuesday 8.30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am

Hospital Chapel Mass:

First Tuesday of each month at 11am

Sodality of Our Lady (in hall):

Every Monday 3.30pm to 4.30pm (children)

Pilgrim Rosary (in hall):

Every Tuesday 7pm

Legion of Mary (in hall):

Every Wednesday 6.30pm (youth)

Every Thursday 7pm (adult)

Divine Mercy Prayer Group (in hall):

Every second Saturday 10am

Baptisms:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month.

Marriages:

By appointment

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

4th February, 2024



In the time of Jesus almost everything they couldn't understand was put down to a demon or an evil spirit. Even though we have become more advanced in our medical knowledge, it's surprising how this thinking still persists. While most people don't blame evil for their ailments, they can think God has a direct hand in sending an illness or an injury. Such faulty theology cannot be reconciled with the New Testament.

There is not a single instance where Jesus inflicts pain and suffering on others. He regularly tells us we have to carry our cross and bear our burdens, but this is vastly different from personally laying a cross on our shoulders or giving us the burdens in the first place. By contrast, every time that Jesus encounters suffering and pain he works to heal it and restore the person to new life.

The differences between the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and the other healing stories in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel are striking. Rather than in a public space and in front of crowds this personal healing occurs in the privacy of Peter's house. By contrast to the command for the demons to be gone, in his bedside ministry Jesus never mentions a demon and uses no words. Instead he gently takes her by the hand and helps her to her feet. Unlike the others Jesus heals, of whom we never hear about their response, the healing of Peter's mother-in-law leads her to an act of service. Given all the details Mark gives us of this encounter he never tells us her name.

Sometimes we can think of Jesus' miracles, then and now, as acts of dazzling power. The problem with this idea is that if we see Jesus as going around 'zapping' people it's hard to figure out why there were times when he could not perform any miracles at all, or that they happened in stages. Whatever else miracles are, they are deeply personal encounters of faith.

As Catholics we believe in the power of miracles and that the source of them is always the grace of God. But we do not have to see them as something done to us from without. Rather, we can see them as unlocking something from within. For some people Jesus' word or touch set free the healing power God had placed in them. For others it came through another person's intercession. The same holds true for us today.

Furthermore, being anointed, celebrating Reconciliation or Eucharist, going to a place of pilgrimage, fasting, being prayed over or meditating can have a similar effect. Looked at in this way we can see why some people are healed and others are not. If a personal encounter with Jesus did not always lead to healing, then why should it surprise us that some other encounters these days do not always unlock God's healing within us.

Small and large-scale miracles are happening every day. Today's Gospel reminds us that they do not happen for show or for the sake of the crowd. They are realisations of faith. Taking Peter's mother-in-law as our model we are healed and strengthened so that we can witness to God's saving power, serve the Kingdom of God in any way we can, and continue to wait on the Lord.

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: Job 7 : 1-4. 6-7
I am filled with sorrow all day long.

RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9 : 16-19. 22-23
Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 1 : 29-39
He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deceased: Please pray for the recently deceased Matthew Simpson, Rita Taylor, Jimmy Muscat, Ramil Reyes as well as William Attard, Matthew and Kathryn Mulhall, Charlie and Grace Vella, Felix and Maree Sammut, Chris, John and Maryanne Sultana.

Sick: Please pray for Jimmy Marinas, Thelma Rayes, Joan Dodd and Roza Galea.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE - AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN)

Did you know that across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith? Aid to the Church in Need is a spiritual and pastoral charity which seeks to keep the flame of faith alive in those places where it is at risk of extinction. This weekend we welcome to our parish Kylie Cullen, an ACN speaker who will share with us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need and how we can help our suffering and persecuted brothers and sisters.



MONDAY CLUB SOCIAL

There will be NO Monday Club lunch in February. The first and last one for the year will be held on the first Monday in March. Celine and Antoinette will be stepping down so they are looking for someone or more than one person to take their place. If you are interested in taking over or want more information, please speak to Celine.

INFORMATION REGARDING LENT

Lent is early this year, and Ash Wednesday is the 14th February. On that day, we will be holding Mass at 9am and 7pm. Please note that the primary school children from St Matthew's will be at the 9am Mass. Every Friday during Lent there will be reconciliation available at 6pm which will then be followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7pm.



DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS

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 10th February in 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 are required by 6th February to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre Blacktown. Monday 5th February (9.30am – 2.30pm) – Modules 1-3: For those new to Parish Ministry or for those who have not yet completed the initial Cycle 1 training, or Monday 12th February (10am – 1.30pm) – Modules 4-5: Renewal Safeguarding Training is for those in Parish Ministry who commenced Cycle 1 Training two years ago. Please register for this training by emailing Maria Kervin at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org



ROSTERS 10TH/11TH FEBRUARY, 2024		6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B		
Church Cleaning: T. Ripa and S. Mitchell.		Sacristy: I. Willingham and M. Hutchison.		
MASSES	6PM	7.30AM	9AM	5PM
Commentator	M. Grosvenor	C. Attard	L. Buchanan	C. Chalker
Reader	A. Dimech	S. Mackenzie	T. Victorino	M. Claravall
Acolyte/Adult Server	J. Dimech	J. Coco	F. Watkins	G. Claravall