



5th September 2021
XXIII Sunday in Ordinary
Time

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Saints of the week:

Wednesday 8th of September: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



*Happy Birthday
my Lady,
Mother and Queen!!*

**AS YOU ARE AWARE, BECAUSE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS, THE CHURCH IS
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

If you require the assistance of a priest, please contact Fr. Gustavo to 9649 3855

SUNDAY MASSES:	Vigil Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00am, 10am
WEEKDAY MASSES:	Tuesday to Saturday 9.15am
ROSARY:	Tuesday Saturday 8.30am
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 4.15pm and by appointment
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:	Saturday 4.15pm
BAPTISMS:	Sundays after 10am mass and by appointment
WEDDINGS:	By appointment (minimum of six months notice required)
ANOINTING MASS:	2 nd Saturday in March, June, September & December
PARISH SECRETARY:	Tuesday & Thursday 9am to 3pm

(Mass Intentions & news items for the bulletin must be left at Presbytery by 12pm Wednesday)

This Church is equipped with an induction loop for the hearing impaired

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Recently Deceased: Joseph Doumit, Giuseppe Alvaro, Anna Napoli in Passarello, Theresa Franks, Joseph Mil.

Anniversaries: Rosa Elvira, Olive Harris, Annetta (Netta) Keating, Mariana Ortega, Teresa Alvaro, Dominic Alvaro and for all souls in purgatory

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

We pray for: Eliana Criollo, Scott Perry, Susan Abood, Angela Mil, Paul Landa, Eliana Molina, Nicole Milagros, Joe Martin, Sybil Simon, Carmeline D'Souza, David D'Souza, Cornlius D' Souza, Claro Tungul Snr, Daniel Tungul, Catalina Tungul, Arturo Bonifacio, Virginia Bonifacio, Eugenio Ongcal, Rosita Ongcal, Joshua Koelmeyer, Frank Koelmeyer, Chrisby Koelmeyer, Day, Goodwin & Stafford Family, Marija Barclay, Judy Melville, Tom Ladler, Jessica Tu, Tristan Schuyler Simeon, Anthony Fabin, Mereen Browne.

PARISH DONATIONS:

Now for your convenience the parish offers an online donation system. At the top of the parish website, you can find a red button **SUPPORT US** click there and follow the easy steps. If you would like to specify for which collection (1st or 2nd) your donation is done, please contact us through the parish email. May God bless you for your great generosity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE, DEVOTION AND LOVE TO OUR LADY: Thanks to your generosity and care, the flowers have not lacked in the image of our Lady since the lock down began. May God bless you, and let us be sure that her protection will not be lacking in our lives:



THE MEMORARE PRAYER

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

FATHER'S DAY: We're so grateful for you dear fathers. Thank you very much for your tireless work for the wellbeing of your families, may God bless and reward you. "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him" (Prov 22:6). We specially pray for those who are separated from their families. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!!

THE SAFEGUARDING AND MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY IN SJG PARISH: Continuing the process in moving forward positively in relation to all Safeguarding measures, now you can find in the [parish website](#) a variety of helpful resources regarding to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Part of that material you can find at the entrance of the church as well.

As part of the Safeguarding procedures, we are now making available a suggestion box specially for children and young people in order that the parish takes into consideration their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions in a more proactive way.

Also as apart of the Safeguarding procedures, it is available for parents, guardians and the general community a Protocol: Managing Safeguarding Complaint.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK: Safeguarding Sunday, 12 September 2021

This week the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated **National Child Protection Week** for the fifth year in a row, and today, the week culminates with the celebration of Safeguarding Sunday. The celebration of this past week, leading up to Safeguarding Sunday, has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on how we can improve the ways we care for, protect and listen to the Children and Young People in our communities.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed two new resources; the *Children's Activity Book* and *A Guide for Young People to Better Understand their Wellbeing*.

Additionally, the Safeguarding Offices of the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Diocese of Broken Bay, have collaborated on the development of a resource. Entitled *Children and Young People's Participation in Catholic Communities*, this guide promotes community awareness to support, engage, listen to and communicate with Children and Young People.

These resources can be accessed on the Safeguarding website: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

I encourage you all to take the time to reflect on how we can all participate in the shared responsibility of caring for and protecting our Children and Young People.

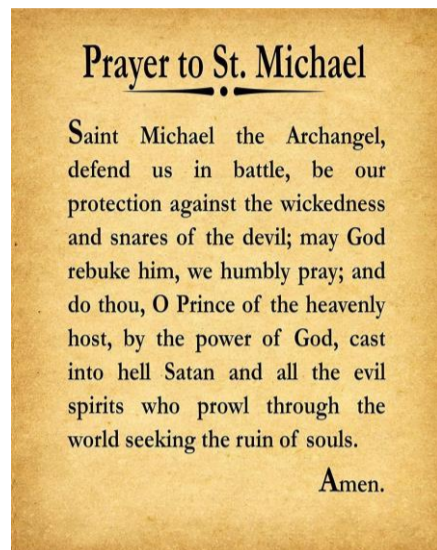
CHURCH VOLUNTEERS: (Sacramental coordinators, sacramental group leaders, Catechists, Acolytes, Readers, parish collectors and Eucharistic Ministers) thank you very much for your generous help in the parish. There is an **Online Safeguarding Induction Training** to be completed by those who are engaged in one way or another in child-related work in the parish. Please go to this link <https://forms.gle/9ebT3voEAtfP7P8R9> and complete it once you have done it, please notify the parish the date you have complete the training so we can update our records which is a requirement from the Safeguarding Office. We work together for the safety of children and young people. If you have any inquiries, please contact the parish office.

ARCHBISHOP'S AFGHAN REFUGEE APEAL Archbishop Fisher has launched an appeal to support the Afghan people seeking asylum who have forced to flee their homeland. For any donation, please visit the archdioceses website.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY Digital Edition is now available. If you like to catch up the latest Catholic news around Australian and the world, consider subscribing to the digital version of The Catholic weekly at www.weeklycatholicnews.com.au

Volunteer in Australia and Overseas - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2022 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Australia. When it is possible and safe to do so, we will recommence sending volunteers to work with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste & the Solomon Islands. Applications close October 30th. Send us an inquiry - www.cagliero.org.au



A POWERFUL PRAYER:

It was from 1886 to 1964 that the prayer to St Michael the Archangel was introduced by Pope Leo XIII to be said at the end of Low Mass in the Catholic Church. The prayer itself is a powerful weapon against the snares of the evil. Today some priests say the prayer at the end of mass and parishioners are free to say the prayer as well. Certainly, it is a prayer for spiritual warfare.

Each one of us is entrusted to the care of an individual angel to guard and protect us, and to deliver us from the snares of evil demons. Archangels are entrusted with the tasks of guarding nations. St. Michael the Archangel has been invoked for protection on various occasions. In 590, a great plague struck Rome. Pope St. Gregory the Great led a procession through the streets as an act of penance, seeking the forgiveness of and atoning for sin. At the tomb of Hadrian (now Castle Sant' Angelo near St. Peter's Basilica), St. Michael appeared and sheathed his sword, indicating the end of the plague. The Holy Father later built a chapel at the top of the tomb and to this day a large statue of St. Michael rests there.

WITH A FATHER'S HEART (Pope Francis)

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation".

Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home".

Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious Institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him. Among them was Teresa of Avila, who chose him as her advocate and intercessor, had frequent recourse to him and received whatever graces she asked of him. Encouraged by her own experience, Teresa persuaded others to cultivate devotion to Joseph.

May God bless all the fathers of the world, in particular way the ones in our parish

A MESSAGE REGARDING SAFEGUARDING ISSUES FOR OUR PARISH

A copy of the Safeguarding Policy has been uploaded to the website of St John of God and a copy will also be attached to our notice board. If anyone would like a copy of the Safeguarding Policy, one can be provided to you upon request.

As part of the Safeguarding procedures, the Parish is now making available a suggestion box especially for children and young people in order that we take into consideration their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions in a more proactive way. The Suggestion Box which will be placed on a table in the church foyer. We look forward to hearing from our children.

Also, as part of the Safeguarding procedures, it is available for parents, guardians and the general community a protocol 'Managing Safeguarding Complaints'. We value the process in moving forward positively in relation to all Safeguarding measures. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Priest.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sunday Readings

First reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

Second reading: James 2: 1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that

you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Gospel reflection

This miracle of Jesus is commemorated by the priest in the ceremony of the Sacrament of Baptism. There the priest makes the sign of the cross on the ears and mouth of the child and repeats the words of Christ. The significance of this gesture is explained by the baptismal ritual prayer: "May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."

God's main purpose in creating our senses was that we should use them to give honour and glory to God. He gave us the gift of speech so that we might praise God and sing his glory. This is exactly what the dumb man in the gospel did when he regained his power of speech; he gave glory to God.

God gave us our gift of hearing that we might hear his praises. He gave us sight that we might see his glory through creation and read what is pleasing to him. We cannot use our senses in any greater way than this.

A beautiful story of spiritual awareness is told of Cardinal Faulhaber, the renowned Archbishop of Munich. One day he was visiting a home for blind soldiers. He walked through the home and cheered them up. He encouraged them and blessed them. As he came to one blind soldier, he heard him praying, "Lord, I beg you not to take away from me the light of my eyes, but if it is your will, at least leave me the light of my mind, but if it is your will that I be deprived of that, leave me at least the light of my faith."

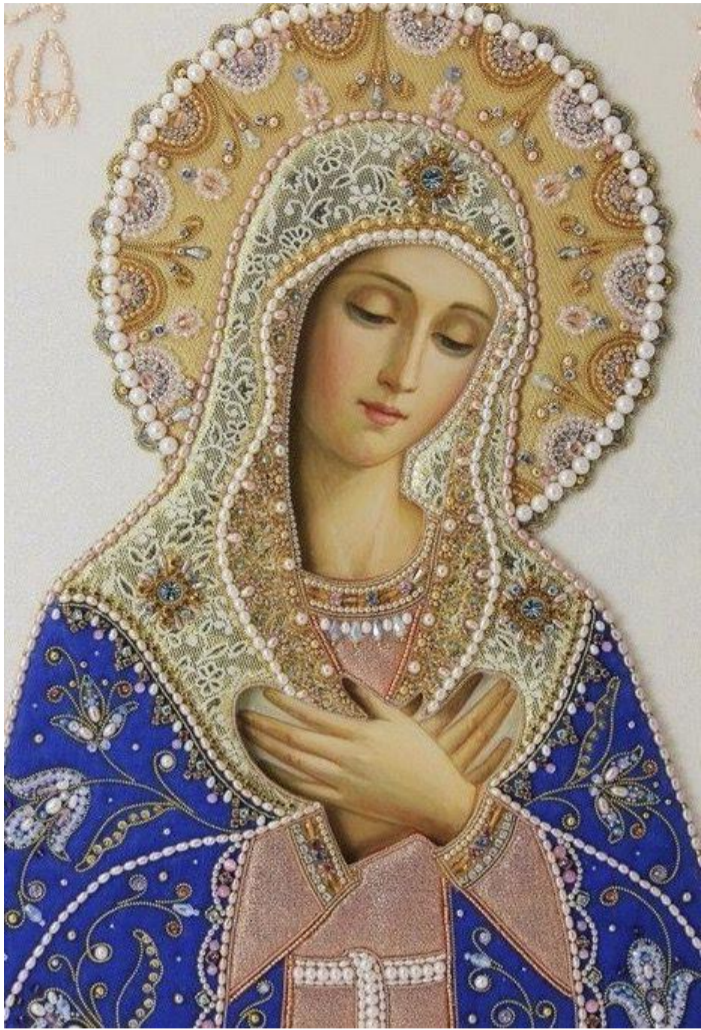
Certainly the loss of one's sight is a tragic affliction, but the loss of one's faith is a greater one. If God has given us the gifts of hearing, speech and sight, let us thank God for them. Let us show our gratitude by using these gifts in his honour and praise. Let us lift up our voices in praise of God like the deaf and dumb man in today's gospel.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"My son be careful where you walk. The son responds: Father, you be careful, remember that I follow your steps."

If you wish to subscribe to our mail list, contact us: cathpara@tpg.com.au

St John Of God Auburn parish



From a discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete

The old has passed away: all things are made new

‘The fulfilment of the law is Christ himself, who does not so much lead us away from the letter as lift us up to its spirit. For the law’s consummation was this, that the very lawgiver accomplished his work and changed letter into spirit, summing everything up in himself and, though subject to the law, living by grace. He subordinated the law, yet harmoniously united grace with it, not confusing the distinctive characteristics of the one with the other, but effecting the transition in a way most fitting for God. He changed whatever was burdensome, servile and oppressive not what is light and liberating, so that we should be enslaved no longer *under the elemental spirits of the world*, as the Apostle says, nor held fast as bondservants under the letter of the law.

This is the highest, all-embracing benefit that Christ has bestowed on us. This is the revelation of the mystery, this is the emptying out of the divine nature, the union of God and man, and the deification of the manhood that was assumed.

This radiant and manifest coming of God to men most certainly needed a joyful prelude to introduce the great gift of salvation to us. **The present festival, the birth of the Mother of God, is the prelude**, while the final act is the fore-ordained union of the Word with flesh. Today the Virgin is born, tended and formed and prepared for her role as Mother of God, who is the universal King of the ages.

Justly, then, do we celebrate this mystery since **it signifies for us a double grace. We are led towards the truth, and we are led away from our condition of slavery to the letter of the law.** How can this be? Darkness yields before the coming of the light, and grace exchanges legalism for freedom. But midway between the two stands today’s mystery, at the frontier where types and symbols give way to reality, and the old is replaced by the new. Therefore, let all creation sing and dance and unite to make worthy contribution to the celebration of this day. Let there be one common festival for saints in heaven and men on earth. Let everything, mundane things and those above, join in festive celebration. Today this created world is raised to the dignity of a holy place for him who made all things. The creature is newly prepared to be a divine dwelling place for the Creator.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you;
Blessed are you among women,
And blessed is the fruit
Of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.