



**12<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**XXIV Sunday in Ordinary**  
**Time**

**Administrator:** Fr Gustavo C. Farfan  
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**Saints of the week:**

*Monday 13<sup>th</sup>: St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross.*  
*Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>: Our Lady of Sorrows. Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>: St Cornelius, pope, martyr and St Cyprian, bishop, martyr.*

**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

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

**Anniversaries:** Rosa Elvira, Olive Harris, Annetta (Netta) Keating, 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:** 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.

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### **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.

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## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CARE, DEVOTION AND LOVE TO OUR LADY:**



### **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.

**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.

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY, 12 September:** This past week 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/>

**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.

**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](http://www.weeklycatholicnews.com.au)

## **A POWERFUL PRAYER:**

### **Prayer to St. Michael**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

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.

**NEW TO THE PARISH** On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of September Zeljko Evetovic has arrived to the parish of St John of God; he will work together with Fr. Gustavo in the Evangelization of the parish.



My name is Željko Evetović and I am currently in my 9th year of formation at the Missionary Seminary Redemptoris Mater Sydney. I was born 18 of September 1980 in Subotica, Serbia, which was former Yugoslavia. My family is a non-practicing Catholic family. I grew up out of the church, as I never thought about God, that he exists, that he created us and everything in this world. After many existential experiences through my life, the turning point happened in 1999, when I was asked by my father to receive the sacrament of Baptism. With this sacrament I see now that I received a seed and a call toward priesthood. However, this seed did not have enough strength and water to grow properly until God called me into the Neocatechumenal Way (charism within the Catholic Church dedicated to Christian formation) in 2003. God, abundant in his mercy, again intervened in my life. I still remember the moment attending the initial catechesis, when I was totally disappointed, confused and with my spirit on “the bottom of a pit” (Ps 40:1-2). The catechists announced to me the kerygma, the message that God the Father loves me as I am, sending his only Son Jesus Christ who died for me, instead of me, and rose again from the dead. In that moment something gave testimony in my heart that this was true (Rom 5:4-5). My “heart was restless until it rests in you” said Saint Augustine and by sheer necessity I turned to the only way, that there was left to pursue. And so, began my journey in the Neocatechumenal Way. In the beginning it seemed narrow and demanding, because I had come back again to the Church wounded by my sins, but little by little it turned out to have so many answers for me. Something attracted me again in Christianity through this small Christian community even though I did not understand in the beginning, and I had many spiritual battles, but I decided to believe in the Word of God, Liturgy and Community, and comprehension came eventually. Later I discovered that that moment was when the Trinitarian God acted in a special way in my life and called me again toward the ministry of the priesthood. Time in the Neocatechumenal community for me is a great formation. I became more aware of the spiritual as well in the physical needs of those in and those far away from the church. I concluded through prayer and consultation with my parish priest and catechists that I thought I had a vocation and wanted to be sent to the seminary to further discern God’s calling.

My first years in the seminary were a big change for me. I found the formation challenging but very helpful and necessary, and the academic study sometimes overwhelming. But the increased time in prayer, Eucharist, community, support of the students, staff, formators and catechists has allowed me to realise that I had underestimated my need to improve myself.

Many changes and significant events have occurred in my life, and if somebody asks me about my relation with God, I can tell them only through my experience, how I was condemned to live for myself until I met Jesus Christ who died and rose for me so that I can live for Him, for others and be happy. By some extraordinary exertion of grace on the part of God I learned to “look for the things that are above, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand” (Col 3:1).

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### **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](mailto: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 50: 5-9**

The Lord has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.  
My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me?  
Then let us go to court together.  
Who thinks he has a case against me?  
Let him approach me.  
The Lord is coming to my help,  
who will dare to condemn me?

### **Second reading: James 2: 14-18**

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

### **Gospel acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;  
No one can come to the Father except through me.  
*Alleluia!*

### **Gospel: Mark 8: 27-35**

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

## Gospel reflection

The shadow of Calvary falls across today's readings and stretches into our lives with the announcement by Jesus that unless we take up our cross and follow him, we are unworthy of his company. This is a remainder of something we would rather forget because nobody wants to suffer. We find it off-putting and prefer to avoid the hard things of life. All of us are very much children of this world in the way we crave for pleasure, comfort, and soft times. Peter spoke for everyone when he objected to what Christ said about suffering, rejection, and death, it run as contrary to his expectations as it does to ours.

The age-old problem of why people suffer has puzzled thinking minds down the centuries and has never been satisfactorily resolved. Jesus never explained why we have to suffer, nor did he rid the world of suffering. What he did was to give suffering meaning and value by filling it with his presence. In his life he showed us the proper approach to suffering and how to put the crosses that come our way to good use.

In a world gone wrong, sooner or later we are all involved in suffering. It may take the form of a disgrace that is public, an addiction that forever threatens, nights of despair or years of loneliness. We need to name these afflictions for what they are - crosses – Our Lord suffered so much himself that he has sympathy for us in the trials that beset us on our earthly pilgrimage. He encourages us to shoulder our crosses and follow in his footsteps. The only sure promise we have is that every cross, no matter how difficult and burdensome, if united with Christ's cross, becomes meaningful and a source of salvation for ourselves and each other. Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven.

Jesus makes it crystal clear about the high cost involved in being one of his disciples and never at any time pretends that it is less than demanding. Suffering is the blood, sweat and tears of life. The cross, which is planted in the center of Christian living, is not an invitation to lead a miserable life but is a call to hope in the face of those sufferings, which are the normal part of human existence. Our Lord's teaching is for real life and real life can be very difficult.

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The glorious cross is the tree of salvation"