



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times: Sunday 21st June 2020 – Twelfth Sunday, Ord Time (A)

Sunday, 21 Jun	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 21 Jun	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 22 Jun	No Mass	Sts John Fisher & Thomas More (Mem)
Tuesday, 23 Jun	No Mass	St Paulinus of Nola, bishop (Optional)
Wednesday, 24 Jun	No Mass	Nativity of St John the Baptist (Solemnity)
Thursday, 25 Jun	No Mass	Thursday – 12th Week, Ord Time
Friday, 26 Jun	No Mass	Friday – 12th Week, Ord Time
Saturday, 27 Jun	No Mass	St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop (Optional)



Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

Communion Antiphon:

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

The Resumption of 10.30am & 6pm Sunday Mass – for a maximum of 50 parishioners

Dear everyone, we have created an online booking system for Sunday Mass at St Benedict's, through Eventbrite. Please now register for Sunday Mass, using the following links:

10.30am Sunday Mass - St Benedict's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1030am-sunday-mass-st-benedicts-broadway-tickets-108589118978>

6pm Sunday Mass – St Benedict's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/600pm-sunday-mass-st-benedicts-broadway-tickets-108589979552>

Should anyone experience difficulty in using the Eventbrite system to book Mass, please be in touch with the parish office on 8204 4378 by Thursday of each week – we will not be able to assist you after Thursday, as the parish office is closed on Fridays and weekends – thank you!

*For anyone arriving for Sunday Mass without having first registered, we will be pleased to record your details and invite you into the church, **if** 50 parishioners have not already registered. However, if we have reached the maximum of 50, regrettably, we will not be able to do so. Thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.*

Regular Confession Times:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



A VOCATION VIEW: 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.'

Saint John the Baptist

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist – this feast was observed on this date (24th June) in the fourth century. It celebrates the holy birth of 'the greatest of all prophets', the one who leapt for joy in his mother's womb, who prepared the way for Christ, announced his presence and baptised him in the Jordan River.

***Weekly Envelopes for the new financial year – available for collection in the church from this Sunday 21st June onwards – many thanks**

Red and Black buckets – for First and Second Collections – at present, we are not passing the collection plates around the pews during Sunday Mass, in keeping with social distancing. Instead, we have two large buckets at the front of the church (generally on the edge of the altar). The **Red bucket** is the **First Collection bucket, for the Dominican community** – and the **Black bucket** is the **Second Collection bucket, for St Benedict's Parish**. You are welcome to come up and place monies in these buckets during Mass, or of course, before or afterwards. Thank you – your ongoing support is appreciated.

[Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm](https://youtu.be/EYDnqS_3LeE) – Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (21st June 2020) – https://youtu.be/EYDnqS_3LeE

CatholicCare – is offering free online counselling until 30th June 2020. This is open to all. To access this offer, please call the CCareline – 13 18 19 and quote the name of our parish

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

John Fisher was born in Beverley (England) in 1469. He died in London on this day (22nd June) in 1535. Chancellor at Cambridge and bishop at Rochester, combining diligent pastoral ministry with the defence of Catholic doctrine.

Thomas More was born in London in 1478. He died there for the faith on 6th July 1535. An Oxford scholar, a noted humanist and apologist, an incorruptible judge and Lord Chancellor, a devoted husband and loving father.

Drawn into conflict with Henry VIII, both were imprisoned and beheaded for treason. Remembered for their wide learning, for their devotion to the Church, and for their uncompromising integrity and courage. An opportunity to celebrate all the English martyrs, Catholic and Protestant, of the Reformation era. Coming from every walk of life, people rich and poor, married and single, women and men, died on the scaffold, perished in prison or suffered harsh persecution for their faith. *From the Common of Martyrs Outside Easter time*

Plenary Council update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed to October 2021 (Adelaide) and April 2022 (Sydney). Importantly, as part of the journey towards the national assembly, the discernment papers foundational to the working paper and ultimately the agenda for the assembly are available on the National Plenary Council webpage, under the Discernment tab: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

21 JUNE 2020

OF WHOM TO BE AFRAID?

As a basic human emotion, fear can go two ways. It can be a safeguard and protection. Or it can be a force that cripples and disables. The key thing is to distinguish well-founded fear from that which is illusory or based on deception. A great part of spiritual direction consists in helping people to recognise their fears and see whether they are based on falsehood or reality.

Today's Gospel addresses challenges believers face in living out and giving witness to their faith. Ringing through it is the refrain: 'Do not fear'. Jesus acknowledges that there will be much that will dismay believers and make them afraid. He urges them to distinguish appropriate from inappropriate fear.

Disciples need not fear persecutors who can only kill the body. Our physical existence is held in God's hands; we are precious in God's sight – infinitely more so than sparrows, none of whose falling to the ground escapes divine notice. In all threats, then, we can be confident that God will see them through to eternal life.

For disciples, the only truly valid fear is that of falling out of God's favour. The warning, 'Fear him, rather, who can destroy both body and soul in hell', may refer, then, to those whose evil influence and deception could bring this about.

God's only desire is to impart to us eternal life. But we can so alienate ourselves from the outreach of divine love as to face eternal loss. It is of such a consequence that people ought truly to be afraid.

FIRST READING

20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
' "Terror from every side!"

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!

All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.

Then we will master him

and take our revenge!

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,

who scrutinise the loins and heart,

let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,

for I have committed my cause to you.

Sing to the Lord,

praise the Lord,

for he has delivered the soul of the needy

from the hands of evil men.

■ The word of the Lord.

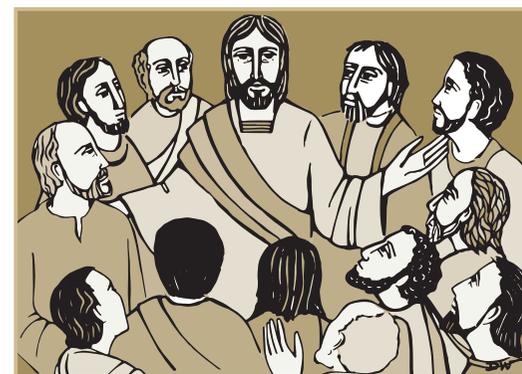
RESP PSALM

Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ The word of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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