



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

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 1st November 2020 – All Saints Day – Solemnity (A)

Sunday, 01 Nov	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 01 Nov	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 02 Nov	12.35 pm	All Souls Day
Tuesday, 03 Nov	12.35 pm	St Martin de Porres, religious (Opt)
Wednesday, 04 Nov	12.35 pm	St Charles Borromeo, bishop (Mem)
Thursday, 05 Nov	12.35 pm	Thursday – Week 31, Ordinary Time
Friday, 06 Nov	12.35 pm	Friday – Week 31, Ordinary Time
Saturday, 07 Nov	No Mass	Saturday – Week 31, Ordinary Time



Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

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

Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

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: 'You are the salt of the earth...' – from the Sermon on the Mount

November Masses for Holy Souls – please consider having Masses offered for your deceased loved ones this November. As an intercessory prayer, a Mass offered can help souls in purgatory to be purified and grow in sanctifying grace. November envelopes are available at the back of the church and can be placed in the collections baskets – these envelopes will be faithfully given to Fr Dominic, or can also be directly handed to any of the priests celebrating any Mass you are attending.

Remembrance Book – for the month of Holy Souls – the Remembrance Book for the month of November is on the wooden stand at the front of the church, near the Sacred Heart altar – please feel free to come up and record the names of your deceased loved ones.

Photos of loved ones – for the month of Holy Souls – it has been tradition in recent years to bring photos of loved ones who have Departed, to place on the Sacred Heart altar in November, the month of Holy Souls. All are most welcome to continue this tradition and bring photos of loved ones.

Fr John's 60th anniversary celebrations – last weekend, we had the privilege of celebrating Fr John Neill's 60th anniversary of ordination (22nd October) with a very special Sunday Mass. Fr John was the principal celebrant and Fr Dominic, Fr Laurie and Deacon John concelebrated with him. It was very special to have Fr John celebrating this Mass. Fr John's sister, Carole, was at the Mass and it was an honour to have her there. Many parishioners, friends & members of the UNDA community were present. The choir was beautiful. A special thankyou to everyone who made the day the occasion it was. Even the coldest October day in 12 years couldn't dampen things. Morning tea was indoors, instead of in the lovely courtyard, but enjoyed and appreciated by all. It has been a big and happy week for Fr John who is hopefully resting up now. ☺

Entrance Antiphon:

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Communion Antiphon:

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

All Saints Day – this feast began in the East to commemorate all martyrs and was progressively adopted in the West. Celebrated on this day (1st November) in the eighth century and soon widely observed. Honoured today are all holy men and women in glory with Christ: known or unknown, mighty or lowly, all whose lives were modelled on the Beatitudes and on the great commandment of love.

All Souls Day – this day of commemoration began early in the Middle Ages with annual prayers for the dead in monastic communities. Fixed on this day (2nd November) it spread more widely after the tenth century and now ranks with the principal feast days in the liturgical calendar. Commonly known as All Souls, it expresses Christian faith in the communion of saints and our need to pray for one another in the Church, especially those souls in purgatory 'who have been buried in their human imperfection'.

Saint Martin de Porres – Martin was born in Lima, Peru in 1579, the son of a white Spanish grandee father and a black Panamanian mother. He learned the art of healing as a boy, and when he entered the Dominican order, he served as an infirmarian. He professed his religious vows in 1603. Martin tended the poor who were ill, and was also known for his gentleness with animals. Blessed with extraordinary spiritual gifts, he led a life of profound prayer and penance. Martin died in 1639.

St Charles Borromeo – was born in Arona, Italy in 1538. Only twenty-two when he was appointed cardinal, secretary of state and given the administration of the diocese of Milan by his uncle, Pius IV. Prominent in the final sessions of the Council of Trent during 1562-1563 and, at its end, was ordained presbyter, then bishop and became archbishop of Milan. Known for implementing the Council's reforms in liturgy, education, presbyteral formation and diocesan organisation. Remembered as an exemplary and pastoral bishop and an ardent proponent of reform and renewal. Charles Borromeo died in 1584 in Milan.

Go Make Disciples: Prayer for Renewal – Archbishop Anthony Fisher will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan – **Go Make Disciples** – on Saturday 12th December, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of outreach to our community in love and mercy. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks. The Archdiocesan prayer campaign begins today, on the feast of All Saints. A copy of the prayer is available in the church noticeboard and there are copies at the back of the church.

Companions Matter – is a community program assisting people to reconnect by offering courses, workshops and social gatherings, at St Mary's Catholic Parish, Erskineville. They are looking for volunteer companions who could support attendance at courses, morning teas after workshops, make a weekly phone call, catch up for a coffee or a walk. For further information, you are invited to attend an online **Zoom** information session on **Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm**. To register, please contact – peter.carroll@catholiccare.org

33 Day Consecration to Saint Joseph – from Friday 6th November

Registrations are now open for the '33 Day Consecration to Saint Joseph' which will prepare us locally for the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph being proclaimed Patron and Protector of the Universal Church, on 8th December 1870. Day 1 of the Consecration commences on 6th November. Please go to the Life, Marriage and Family Facebook page for the Registration link and for the daily reflection videos which will be posted. All enquiries – chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org and please see the church noticeboard for the event poster.

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, / and I will give you rest, says the Lord. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage;

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted;

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied;

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them;

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God;

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God;

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THE BEATITUDES

The gospel of the Beatitudes is often read at funerals and weddings. In its own way, it sounds comforting and indeed it is. However, it is also very challenging—which suggests that ‘Blessed’ is a better rendering of the opening word in each case than ‘Happy’.

Jesus is instructing his disciples concerning the kind of people they must be, not just for themselves but for the benefit of the mass of afflicted people down below the mountain, who he has just healed.

To this end, the beatitudes describe ways of living that mean putting oneself in a vulnerable situation quite contrary to the values of the world. To be ‘poor in spirit,’ rather than proud and dominant; to feel compassion (‘mourn’) because other people suffer; to have a passionate commitment (‘thirst’) for justice; to exercise ‘mercy’ rather than taking advantage of those in an inferior position; to actively promote reconciliation (as ‘peacemakers’); and so forth: all these things make one vulnerable here and now, entailing much loss.

But in light of the hope for the kingdom of God, whose values the Beatitudes enshrine, disciples who adopt this way of life are already ‘blessed’. Their future happiness is in the hands of an ever-faithful God.

Moreover, living in this way means that they can be ‘salt’ and ‘light’ for the world, especially for the afflicted. It is those who are prepared to live in the vulnerable way commended by Jesus who make the world a hospitable home for all humanity. This is the legacy of the ‘saints’ who have gone before us.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, ‘Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.’ Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, ‘Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: ‘Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.’

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, ‘Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?’ I answered him, ‘You can tell me, my Lord.’ Then he said, ‘These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-6. R. cf. v. 6

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**



2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

Jn 3: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.