



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

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 14th February 2021 – Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time (B)

Sunday, 14 Feb	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 14 Feb	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 15 Feb	12.35 pm	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 16 Feb	12.35 pm	Weekday – Ordinary Time
Wednesday, 17 Feb	12.35 pm	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, 17 Feb	4.00 pm	Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, 17 Feb	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday
Thursday, 18 Feb	12.35 pm	Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Friday, 19 Feb	12.35 pm	Friday after Ash Wednesday
Saturday, 20 Feb	No Mass	Saturday after Ash Wednesday

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)

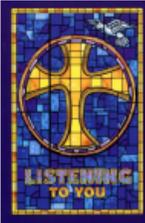
Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

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

Confession at St James' Church

Saturday: 4.15pm - 4.50pm,
ahead of Vigil Mass
(No Confession on Sundays)

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.*



Saint Valentine



A VOCATION VIEW: 'When you love someone you love the whole person, just as he or she is and not as you would like them to be.' *Leo Tolstoy – Anna Karenina*

Relaxation of COVID restrictions, as of Friday 12th February 2021 – Places of Worship are now subject to 2 square metre capacity – this means St Benedict's Church can have 170 congregants at any one time. *Face masks are no longer mandatory, except on public transport. However, in places where social distancing is a challenge, masks are still recommended.

***Ash Wednesday Mass at St Benedict's – Wed 17th February – 12.35pm, 4pm & 7pm**
Attendance at each Ash Wednesday Mass will be on a first come, first served basis, for 170 congregants, under the current 2 square metre church capacity. *Places cannot be reserved for Ash Wednesday Mass – Please arrive early! *

Ash Wednesday – the season of Lent commences on this day; a time of preparation for the great feast of Easter. During Lent, we give special attention to prayer (attending to quality more so than quantity), fasting (emptying ourselves that we may be filled with the life and love of Christ) and good deeds (not to win admiration for ourselves but to help others). Though it has a penitential character, Lent is a joyful season as we anticipate the resurrection of the Lord.

Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Saint Valentine – Saint Valentine of Rome lived in the third century. There are a number of variations of the legend of Saint Valentine and his work in converting people to Christianity and marrying Christian couples but it is widely agreed that he was martyred for not renouncing his faith and was buried on the Via Flaminia, to the north of Rome. He is the patron of love, young people and happy marriages and in some parts of the world, of epileptics and beekeepers.

Weekly Online Lenten Group – Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion

Join Fr Noel Custodio, host of the *Furnace* podcast, as he leads an online Lenten Group which will use *Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion*. **Wednesdays of Lent** – starting Ash Wednesday, 17th February – 7.30pm-8.15pm – To Register – www.gomakedisciples.org.au

Companions Matter – is a program of accompaniment that engages volunteer companions to be the link between the community and diverse individuals who are marginalised or neglected. *Companions Matter* offers recognised courses for promoting well-being and enjoyment and fostering change, and social gatherings to build community connection. You are invited to attend a Zoom information session – Thursday 18th February – 7.30pm-8.30pm. To Register: Email: peter.carroll@catholiccare.org

Project Compassion – Virtual Immersions – during Lent

Each week during this coming Lenten season, Caritas is holding Virtual Immersion opportunities via Zoom. These digital engagements will allow participants to focus on prayer and reflection, Catholic Social Teaching and an interview and Q&A with Caritas International Program staff. Sessions will run Tuesdays and Thursdays across Australia. You can register for a Virtual Immersion by going to – www.lent.caritas.org.au

The Marriage Kit – Online Seminar – Starting Monday Evening 15th February – A good marriage doesn't happen by Accident; it happens by Intention – Join SmartLoving and the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton for a six week online workshop series for married couples wanting a lasting, passionate relationship. The course cost is \$25 – To find out more – www.smartloving.org/rockhampton

Parent Line NSW (CatholicCare) – Parent Line has been providing support over the phone to families across NSW for over 25 years. Confidential and non-judgemental parenting support is just a phone call away. Parent Line counsellors are experienced, friendly and knowledgeable and available 7 days a week, from 9am-9pm on weekdays and from 4pm-9pm on weekends. Call 1300 1300 52 or Email – info@parentline.org.au

Can you picture yourself a Foster Carer ? – *Family Spirit* are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer. To learn more about being a Carer, register for the next online information session – Wednesday 24th February – 12.30pm-1.30pm – Tel: 13 18 19 – or Email: connect@familyspirit.org

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (14th February 2021) – <https://youtu.be/3wbmJZ0YCP1>

***Festival of Beauty – St Peter's – Sun 31st Jan – Sun 21st Feb– www.stpeterssurryhills.org.au**

Happy Saint Valentine's Day!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

14 FEBRUARY 2021

COMPASSION FINDS A WAY

One of the painful learnings we have had from COVID 19 is just how difficult it is to deal with contagious diseases. In Ancient Israel they had learned that quarantining people suffering from skin diseases was necessary until they could be declared by priests ready to safely return to the community. For lepers and those who loved them, it was a brutally painful experience of fear, isolation, and rejection.

In the Gospel today a leper has heard about Jesus and in his desperation risks his life, and the health of others, by entering the city. Falling to his knees he pleads with Jesus to be healed. In his boundless compassion for the man, Jesus reaches out and touches him. In doing this Jesus takes the extraordinary step of making himself an outsider. Healed by Jesus, the man can now be declared fit to return safely to the community. His life has been returned to him and while Jesus has commanded him to be silent, he simply cannot hold it in – the good news of Jesus cannot be contained. At the end of the episode, an outsider has been brought back home and now Jesus has become an outsider himself, and that's where everyone can find him.

Not seeking our own good, but the good of others by not causing them scandal or harm was a lesson Paul was trying to teach the community of Christians in Corinth. Jesus' compassion leads him to reach out to all those in need. Paul hopes that his Christians will live their lives in the same way.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Lev 13: 1-2, 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprosy: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 31: 1-2, 5, 11. R. v. 5

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, / whose sin is remitted. / O happy the man to whom the Lord / imputes no guilt, / in whose spirit is no guilt. **R.**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; / my guilt I did not hide. / I said: 'I will confess / my offence to the Lord.' / And you, Lord, have forgiven / the guilt of my sin. **R.**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, / exult, you just! / O come, ring out your joy, / all you upright of heart. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 10: 31–11: 1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone — to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 7: 16

Alleluia, alleluia! / A great prophet has appeared among us; / God has visited his people. / Alleluia!