



"Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came."

Mark 1:38

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**4 February 2024**

**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL**

The book of Job (7.1-4, 6-7) in the first reading today is clinically depressed. He finds no joy in life at all and is very sad. Contrast that reading with the psalm that follows it and the Gospel story of healing and restoration. It is the Lord who heals the brokenhearted, binds up wounds, sustains the lowly and chases away evil and affliction.

The words used to describe the healing and 'raising up' of Peter's mother-in-law are used to describe the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the new life people have in Christ Jesus. He is the one who brings healing and new life. He conquers sickness and death, evil in all forms, finally restoring people to the dignity of their role and work. We see this in the healing of Peter's mother-in-law as she begins to serve after her recovery.

We see Jesus at prayer early in the morning communing with the Father, but his disciples 'hunt him down', this is an interpretation or translation of the words 'pursue him'. Jesus is about the preaching or proclaiming of the good news and so continues his work in the synagogues of Galilee. May his words and actions bring us healing and help us to be heralds of the 'Good News'.

*Yours, in the Lord Jesus,*  
*Fr Michael*



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A  
POTLUCK PARISH GATHERING**  
Everyone Brings  
Something to the Table



Pick your favourite summer dish and join fellow parishioners for a bring and share potluck dinner.

**WHEN: Following 5:30pm Mass on 10 February 2024**

**WHERE: Parish Pastoral Centre (upstairs)**

**RSVP: (02) 9181 1795** Come along and tell us what dish you will be bringing so our coordinator can make this evening full of a variety of food and laughter.

*All Welcome*

**Catechists Sunday**  
**A Prayer for Catechists**

Loving God, Creator of all things, you call us to be in relationship with you and others.

Thank you for calling me to be a catechist, for the opportunity to share with others what you have given to me.

May all those with whom I share the gift of faith discover how you are present in all things.

May they come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips, so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you.

May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of your truth.

May all my words and actions reflect your love.  
Amen.



**Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick**  
**Saturday 10 February 2024**

12:00 pm Holy Mass

Followed by a light lunch upstairs in the Parish Centre

Bring a plate to share

All welcome including carers and family.

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 94:6-7

**(All)** O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### First Reading

Job 7.1-4, 6-7

A reading from the book of Job.

*Sorrow fills all my days.*

Job spoke to his friends: "Do not human beings have a hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a labourer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like labourers who look for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me. "When I lie down I say, 'When shall I rise?' But the night is long, and I am full of tossing until dawn. "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and come to their end without hope. Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good."

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a, 3)

**(R.) Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.**

1. How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
2. The Lord heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. **(R.)**
3. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23

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

*Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 8.17

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

Christ bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.  
*Alleluia.*



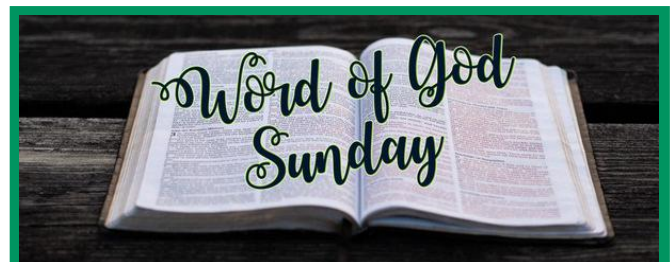
### Gospel

Mark 1.29-39

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

*Jesus cured many who were sick with various diseases.*

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to Jesus all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And Jesus went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



The Church in Australia celebrates the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February - February 4 in 2024 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B).

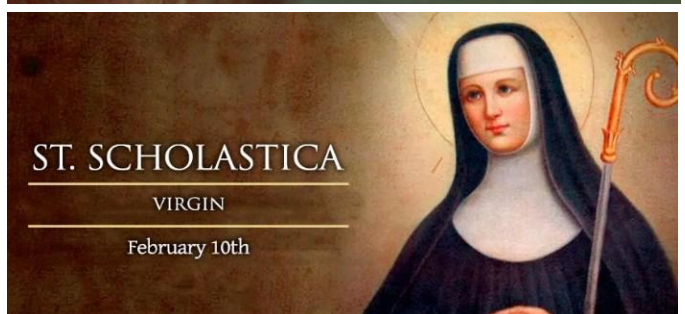
Pope Francis established the day, which is devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination" of the Word of God.

The day presents an opportunity to read, appreciate and pray daily with the sacred Scriptures. Let us embrace Sunday of the Word of God for a deeper and richer encounter with the Risen Lord.



ST. JOSEPHINE  
BAKHITA

February 8th



ST. SCHOLASTICA

VIRGIN

February 10th

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen

### Prayers of the Faithful

**Leader:** God's wisdom and compassion are limitless. Let us bring our needs and those of the world before the Lord.

**Reader:** Let us pray for the Church that it will offer the good news to everyone. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for those who feel like Job with a sense of futility and deep sorrow. May we show them compassion of Jesus by reaching out to them with love, care and mercy. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for all who proclaim and preach the Word of God in our communities: that they will always treasure the opportunity to be formed by God's Word and to use their gifts to bring this Word to life in the liturgy and in the lives of those close to them. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for the Catechists of our Parish both, past, present and to come, that these missionaries of God will be strengthened by our support and that they bring vitality and passion to our Parish's mission of evangelisation. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray that students, teachers and our school community will be ready to meet the challenges and joys of the new school year. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for all who have died, that they will rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory with him. *(pause)*.

*Lord hear us:*

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, your son healed the sick and gave hope to the brokenhearted. Hear our prayer and free us from self concern that we may proclaim your good news with compassion and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### Communion Antiphon

*Cf Psalm 106:8-9*

**(All)** Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.



## Pope Francis has opened the Year of Prayer



On the fifth annual celebration of the 'Sunday of the Word of God', the Holy Father Pope Francis officially opened the Year of Prayer during the recitation of the Angelus.

The Pope said:

"Dear brothers and sisters, the next few months will lead us to the opening of the Holy Door, with which we will begin the Jubilee. I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and experience the strength of God's hope. Today we begin the Year of Prayer, that is, a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and the absolute need for prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church and of the world."

To fully experience this period of preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, added the Pontiff, "we will also be helped by the materials that the Dicastery for Evangelization will make available". In the next few days the first of the eight volumes of the "Notes on Prayer" series will be published by the Dicastery, published by LEV. The introductory book, entitled "Praying today. A challenge" is by Cardinal Angelo Comastri.

"Notes on Prayer"- which will be provided to the community to help them to take advantage the coming months.

The Year of Prayer will be dedicated to rediscovering, as Pope Francis underlined, "the great value and absolute need of prayer, in personal life, in the life of the Church, and prayer in the world", in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee.

The year will conclude, in December 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door marking the beginning of the Holy Year. The Holy Father officially opened the Year of Prayer during the Angelus on January 21, saying: "I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and experience the strength of God's hope."



The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.

The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

# St Mark's Parish Community

## St Mark's Parish 2023 Parochial Report

The data presented is an overview of our Parish, Sacramental, Mission, and Ministry activities last year.

Baptisms	65	SRE Teaching (Catechists)	7 teachers teach 115 children across 7 classes
RCIA (Welcomed to the Catholic Faith)	2	Evangelisation	Prayer Groups 20 gatherings per year
First Communion	57	Parish Groups & Ministries	Average 24 Ministry and Parish Groups
First Reconciliation	50	Weekly emails	1360 on database from Parish Census
Confirmations	59	Parishioner luncheons held	6 per year
Marriages	17	School newsletters sent from Parish Priest	340 families twice per year
Funerals	24	Nursing Home Visits	52 Pastoral visits per year
Anointing (not including Nursing Homes and hospitals)	10	Pastoral calls/visits & deliveries to parishioners	Average 60 per week (Feb - Nov)
Average Sunday Mass Count	280 across 3 Masses	Outreach Groups	2 with weekly pastoral visits and meetings

Each one of these activities happen due to the volunteering efforts of our Parish community. The Church and Parish volunteers often give their time, energy and skills because they are passionate about the mission of the church. If you wish to join as a volunteer speak to the Parish Priest and follow up with a call to the Parish office.

### You are invited to attend a Luncheon **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

To be held in the parish hall of Hunters Hill  
Cnr Mary Street and Gladesville Road .

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Light Lunch served 12.30pm - Concluding 2.30pm



Guest Speaker:  
Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen  
OFM Conv  
"Synodality"

Bishop Vincent Long was born in 1961 in Dong Nai in Vietnam. In 1989 he was ordained to the priesthood as a Conventual Franciscan friar and then studied in Rome and was awarded a licentiate in Christology and Spirituality from the Pontifical Faculty of St Bonaventure. He served as assistant and parish priest in the Diocese of Parramatta and as Assistant General in Rome from 2008 until 2011 responsible for the Asia-Oceania section of his Order. In 2011 he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and in 2016 was appointed the fourth Bishop of Parramatta. Nationally, he serves as the Bishops Delegate for Migrants and Refugees and is Chair of Australian Catholic Social Justice Council. Bishop Vincent is the first Vietnamese born bishop to lead a diocese outside of Vietnam and the first Vietnamese born bishop in Australia.

**Tickets: \$35 per person.**

Please advise any special dietary requirements.

Please request if you wish to be seated with friends.

Reservations essential. RSVP March 1st

**Telephone 02 4971 4090**

Email: [catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com](mailto:catalyst-for-renewal@outlook.com)

 **CATALYST FOR RENEWAL**  
Seeking renewal through conversation.



We begin with the understanding that we were created by a loving God who calls us to fullness of life. In a culture which often focuses on the negative aspects of life, Catholic SRE (Special Religious Teachers) is a breath of fresh air, where students are encouraged to see themselves as God sees them - inherently good, full of potential and capable of being a force for good in our world.

#### Why is SRE taught?

The Catholic Church sees the education of Catholic children in the Faith as integral and key to its mission. The NSW Department of Education (DoE) describes SRE "as an integral part of school activities." SRE can be seen then, as part of "a wellrounded education that values and supports the intellectual, creative, physical, social and emotional development of each child."

#### Become a Catechist - do something of eternal significance!

As a catechist you will "... help towards forming mature faith lives that, in Christ, can both celebrate the joys of life and weather life's storms to live lives of thanksgiving with outward looking charity/service" - *Archbishop Julian Porteous (Hobart)*.

**Does this sound like a commitment you are prepared to make? If so, please speak with Fr Michael, contact the Parish office or speak to one of our Catechists.**

**Brochures are available from the Church Foyer.**

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## SUNSHINE CLUB

The CWL ladies invite you to the  
Sunshine Club Lunch

When: Tuesday 6 February at 12 noon

Where: The Oxford Hotel  
Victoria Rd Drummoyne

All welcome bring a friend and come together for relaxed  
conversation and laughter.



### Bring back previous Blessed Palms for burning:

Palms are required to burn for  
Ash Wednesday ashes.

Please drop off in the Church basket  
provided or at the parish office no later than  
Sunday 11th February.

If you can assist with Palms for Palm Sunday please  
contact the parish office. Thank you.

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES AT ST MARK'S



ASH WEDNESDAY  
BEGINS THE SEASON OF LENT

**7:30am** Mass with Distribution of Ashes  
*Morning Prayer of the Church 15 minutes prior to Mass.*

**9:30am** Mass with Distribution of Ashes  
*St Mark's Primary School Years 3 - 6 attending*

**7:00pm** Mass with Distribution of Ashes

Preparing for

Lent

## Next Sunday collect for your Lenten Preparation

### LENTEN BULLETIN:

Take home your Parish Lenten Bulletin with all the offerings to help you to pause in the daily demands of your life and to take stock in where you are in your relationship with God.

### PROJECT COMPASSION:

Take home your envelopes or boxes and begin your almsgiving.

### REPENT AND BELIEVE:

Be filled with the love of God and attend one of our Lenten gatherings.

### LITTLE BOOKS:

Collect your little black book (purple for children) for daily reflections according to Luke.

A donation is asked for each Little Book.

## St Mark's Parish Diary

### † Monday 5 February - Saint Agatha

She was martyred at Catania in Sicily, probably during the persecution of Decius (250-253). Devotion to her was widespread in the Church in the earliest times and she is mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass. Mass at 8:00am

### † Tuesday 6 February - Sunshine Club Luncheon

The CWL ladies invite you to the Sunshine Club Lunch Tuesday 6 February at 12 noon at The Oxford Hotel Victoria Rd Drummoyne. All welcome bring a friend and come together for relaxed conversation and laughter.

### † Tuesday 6 February - Saint Paul Miki and Companions

A Jesuit Brother and native of Japan, Saint Paul Miki was crucified, along with 25 other Catholics, for preaching his belief in Jesus. Mass at 9:30am

### † Thursday 8 February - St Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine was beatified in 1992 and canonized shortly after on October 2000 by Pope John Paul II. She is venerated as a modern African saint, and as a statement against the brutal history of slavery. Mass at 9:30am

### † Saturday 10 February - Anointing Mass

All who are sick, elderly, facing surgery, or seeking the gift of God's healing are welcome to participate to join us for Mass and prayer and for their families and caregivers. Holy Mass with Anointing of Sick at 12 noon

### † Saturday 10 February - Potluck Parish Gathering

Pick your favourite summer dish and join fellow parishioners for a bring and share a potluck dinner. Following 5:30pm Vigil Mass upstairs in the Parish Centre.

### † Saturday 10 February - Saint Scholastica

The twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died in about 547. Mass at 12 noon

### † Sunday 11 February - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

The liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalls a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous.

### † Sat 10 | Sun 11 February - World Day of Prayer for the Sick

World Day of the Sick is a Church awareness day, or observance, aimed at praying and sharing, sacrificing one's suffering for the welfare of others.

### † Sat 10 | Sun 11 February - Lunar New Year

Beginning the Year of the Dragon - the wood Dragon to be precise!

### † Sat 10 | Sun 11 February - Project Compassion

As we prepare to celebrate once again the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, Project Compassion gives us the chance to act as Jesus did. To reach out to those in some of the most challenging situations.

### † Tuesday 13 February - Shrove 'Pancake' Tuesday

Observed by many Christians through participating in confession and absolution, as well as eating pancakes.

### WEEKDAY MASS NEXT WEEK:

Fr Michael and Fr Denis will be away from the Parish on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for morning Mass, please welcome back to the Parish Fr Brian Egan to celebrate these Masses.



*In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:*

Brian Gallagher, Dante Ferzoco, Egidio Ettorre, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Boccalatte, Pat Crowe,

Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono, Bishop Peter Ingham, Pat Kenna, Wendy Madden, Lina Giannandrea, Patricia Ryan, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Immaculata Di Palma, Giuseppina Pinto and Rocco Zoccali.

*God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. ~Amen~*



**Remembering those who have gone before us.**

Cecilia Chye, Michele and Margherita Maldarella, Agnes Fernandez, Lily Conaghan, Frank Hanvey, Antonio Ziino, Charlie Camilleri, Jim La Gerche, Monica Rincon De Florez, Eddie Conaghan and Jimmy Conaghan.

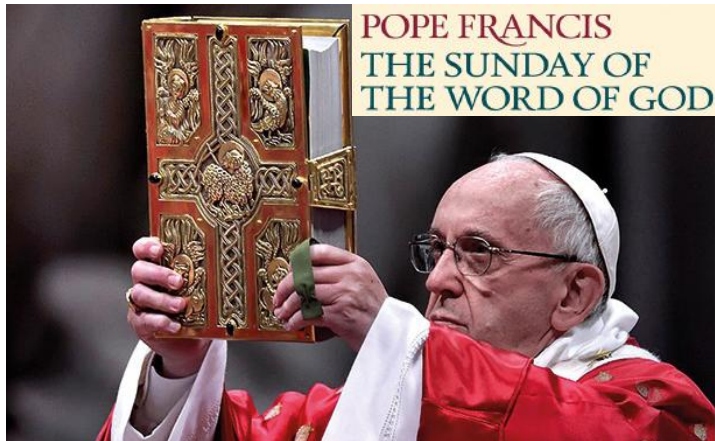
**Recently Deceased.** Fr Kevin Bates SM, Rev Michael Kelly, Olga Garufi, Rodrick McWade, Margurite Anne Turner, Graeme Cooper, Henry Paoloni, Liam Askin and Gerard Bradley. *May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month February**

*Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this monthly intention.*

**For the terminally ill**

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. Amen.



**Our relationship with God has patterns**

Fundamentally our relationship with God is a gift. We don't create it, earn it or maintain it on our own. However, our relationship with God has many of these same elements. To the degree that we continue to nurture in that relationship, with personal interaction - moving beyond formal prayers, written by others - we can grow in intimacy with God. Formal prayers, as well as devotions, rituals and liturgy, are key ways to nurture a prayer life, for us as individuals and as a community. However, Pope Francis makes an important distinction between "saying prayers" and praying. He encourages us to develop a relationship which is personal and has elements of affection and genuine interaction. It is this kind of praying intimacy which takes on the elements of relationship, as we know it.

**St Mark's Drummoyne Masses**

Monday & Friday 8:00am  
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am  
Wednesday 7:30am



Saturday 12 noon  
Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am  
Saturday Vigil 5:30pm  
Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.

*Baptism*

*We welcome into our faith community this Sunday through the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Mark's Ava Georgia Roberts & Evander Blais Revoltar and we congratulate their parents. God bless you.*



**RCIA**  
*A Journey of Faith*

**AN INVITATION THAT NEVER ENDS**

\* Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially taken the step to become Catholic?

\* Have you been away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more?

\* Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?

\* Have you been baptised; but have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Communion?

\* Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If you ("or someone you know") answers YES to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

It is a journey that begins with your questions. The invitation is open.

On behalf of the Catholic community of St. Marks, we look forward to welcoming you. For more details email [pa@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](mailto:pa@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)

**St Mark's Catholic Parish**

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047  
Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: [admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](http://www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)



**St Mark's Church Hearing Loop installed**

**Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael McLean PP  
**Priest in Residence:** Fr Denis Minns OP  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Antonia Nedu ISR  
**Chair Parish Pastoral Council:** Ms Celine Cheng  
**School Principal:** Mrs Melissa Lentini

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



# The Living Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4 February 2024

**Gospel Reflection:** This week's gospel follows directly on from last week's reading and, as is typical with Mark's gospel, the events occur on the very same day. The urgency of the gospel is obvious in this week's reading; Jesus had a very busy 24 hours! Having launched his public ministry in the synagogue earlier that day, Jesus accompanies his new disciples to meet some of their family and have a meal. However, on arriving at the home of Simon and Andrew, they find Simon's mother-in-law is sick. Unlike the public displays of his healing power that preceded and will follow this episode, Jesus does not say anything but simply takes the woman by the hand and helps her up. Her response of beginning to wait on Jesus and his disciples is a faith response and a recognition of who Jesus is. A theme that runs through this gospel is that the disciples never fully understand who Jesus is. Here, a woman who has just met him recognises him as the Messiah and begins to serve him.

Still on the same day, we see the expansion of Jesus' healing ministry. On this one day he has cast an unclean spirit out of a possessed man in the synagogue, healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever and then healed the crowds of people who came to the door. The next morning he announces that they will take the ministry to the whole region of Galilee. In a very simple way, the gospel of Mark has described the growth of Jesus' ministry from very humble isolated examples to a deliberate reaching out to the people of an entire region.

**Historical Context – Capernaum:** Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archaeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house – less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a 'house-church' until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

**Have you thought? Simon's Wife?** In this week's reading, it is Simon's mother-in-law who is healed. This obviously means that Simon is married. However, there is no mention whatsoever about his wife. Is she alive or dead? Do they have children? We have no indication. It is not until the writings of Paul (1 Cor 9:5) that we learn Simon Peter was indeed married and that his wife accompanied him on his travels. Perhaps this visit to his family home was to announce to his wife and family that he had decided to follow Jesus and give up fishing.

**Living the Gospel – Prayer:** In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

## Questions?

Q. What is the significance of Jesus healing by touch alone?

Q. Why might people like Simon's mother-in-law recognise Jesus as the Messiah when the disciples don't?

Q. Why was illness so often attributed to possession?

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## Launch of local and national Synod consultation



Catholics around Australia are being asked to contribute to a global discussion on the future of the Church. At a local (diocesan) level, consultation contributing to the next session of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will start on February 1.

Groups of Catholics will gather and reflect on the question of "enhancing the differentiated co-responsibility in the mission of all members" and provide feedback. The discussion will focus on identifying the paths to follow and the tools that could be adopted in different contexts and circumstances to enhance the unique contribution of each baptised person.

The dioceses will then report their findings. Dioceses are also encouraged to provide a two-page testimony of their experiences of synodality, including any best practices that they consider significant. As well, Catholics will be encouraged to promote new initiatives which will help to grow as a synodal church on mission.

"This work does not require restarting the synodal process again in dioceses but rather it is built upon the outcomes of the synodal experiences from previous stages of consultation," said Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe.

National Centre for Pastoral Research Director Dr Trudy Dantis said: "In responding to the questions, dioceses and groups are invited to focus on the 'how' and to choose aspects that enable them to make contributions based on their own situation, character and experience."

Catholic leaders will also reflect at a national level on the question of the "differentiated co-responsibility", particularly on the relations between Churches, between groupings of Churches at different levels and with the Bishop of Rome.

Diocesan contacts and Synod group leaders will receive training in February, led by the National Centre for Pastoral Research, and an online submission portal will be set up in late March to collate feedback from dioceses. A synthesis report of the diocesan and national reflections and a collation of diocesan testimonies will be sent to the Vatican by May 15.

The next session of the Synod - which was initially held from October 4-29, 2023 - will be staged in October in the Vatican.

**THE Catholic Weekly** \* NSW Vinnies VP among Catholics honoured on Australia Day



\* Pope clarifies controversial blessings document at doctrine meeting.

\* Reject dangerous 'Equality' bill in full: Archbishop Fisher.

**\$2**

Available in the Church foyer

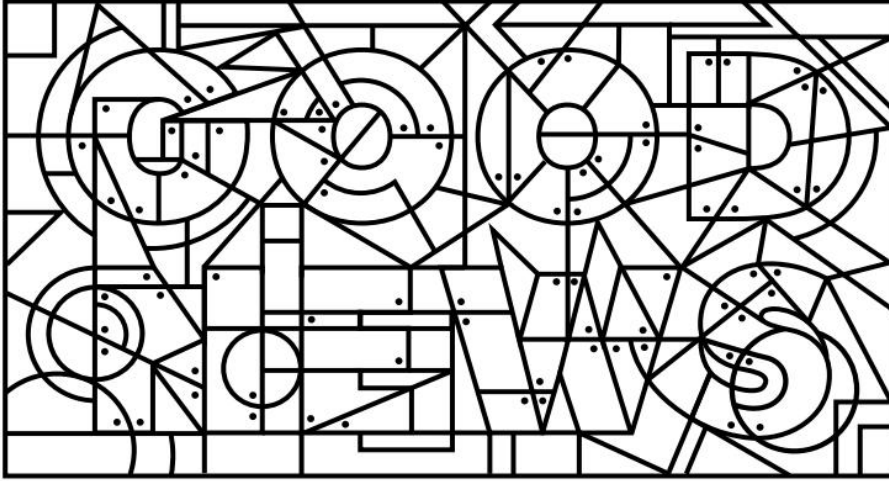


# Jesus is the Good News



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Colour in all the shapes that contain dots to reveal what Jesus wants everyone to know.



Sydney Catholic Schools Week



## OPEN DAYS

- Tuesday 5 March**  
8.30am-11.00am
- Wednesday 6 March**  
2.00pm-5.00pm
- Thursday 7 March**  
2.00pm-3.00pm
- Friday 8 March**  
8.30am-11.00am

**ST MARK'S PRIMARY**

PROVERBS 3:5  
**trust** in the LORD with all your HEART.

BE STILL and KNOW that I AM God!  
PSALM 46:10

I am a Child OF GOD  
JOHN 1:12

FOR GOD SO LOVED the WORLD that HE GAVE HIS only SON.  
John 3:16



### Wordsearch Jesus is the Good News

Try to find these words:

- |          |         |       |       |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|
| alone    | fever   | good  | pray  |
| diseases | Galilee | house | sick  |
| door     | gather  | meal  | Simon |



E V Q I Y D B W E L D C M U D L R  
 I O Q K X W S H B K A W H Y R E F  
 V J A Y S R D Q X C G T D C H M P  
 J H M I I M G O O D M T A T L Z G  
 Y D I V O E W H L H T M A D L P O  
 Y L G D I S E A S E S G N O E L K  
 O H O U U H Q H F P I T G O Z G L  
 S C Z M Q H C L E M R M T R M A T  
 Q W O S G Y H F A O H Q K O E I Q  
 E M L A M Q O L E V K H L M N S S  
 C E X Z O Z V L V V O W U O E Q U  
 A F L R J J V Q L B E M I Q S Z P  
 B A X I E F T J X N S R Y C U F B  
 K V S N L Z F O G I N N G S O V L  
 Q D O I P A E A C N O C U D H V Z  
 O L I J M Y G K A Z E P N P I N O  
 A P R A Y N F O N E P L D D Y G J

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Diocese - Archdiocese - Roman

**ST MARK'S PLAYGROUP**

JOIN IN THE FUN!  
 EVERY FRIDAY 9.00-10.30am

Children from 0-5 years and parents please meet us in the school hall

**ALL WELCOME!**

For further information call the school office: (02) 9181 3042



**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:** 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** [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 a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** [Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection](http://Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection)