

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them".

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 122(123)

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Second reading

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud, I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Stan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness'. So, I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country,

among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Reflection:

OUR MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES

I recently read the following article by Jesuit priest, Fr James Martin, SJ, which I thought I'd share with you:

"Have you ever had a mystical experience? I ask that not to make you feel inadequate in your spiritual life, much less bad about yourself, but to remind you that mystical experiences are lot more common than you might think. You don't have to be a saint to have them. A mystical experience, basically, is one that makes us feel like a sudden flash of truth or light that releases you from your limited sense of self and gives you a taste of a reality that somehow feels more real. It doesn't mean seeing things or hearing things, but a kind of being taken out of yourself, or seeing things in a new way. And in my experience as a spiritual director, they are, while not common, but also not uncommon.

One young man told that he felt like he was a vase filled with water about to overflow. One woman told me that she looked around at Mass and suddenly realized that everyone had once been a child. Sometimes it's just an intense feeling of rightness, or understanding, or connection with God. I would say I've had them about three times in my life. I'm not going to encourage you to look for a mystical experience this week; they're gifts, and rare ones at that. But if it happens, whether this week, this month or this year, just be open to it. And grateful."

I can name one mystical experience I have had which happened after I received Communion at Mass on a weekday. I had a sense of deep love for every person there. I sensed I was seeing everyone just as God sees them. It was an amazing experience that seemed to come out of the blue. I think God gives us these experiences at times to inspire us. A bit like the golfer who hits one great shot in their round of holes and is inspired to come back next time. I pray that God allows you to have the right mystical experiences at the right time in your life.

**Deacon Tony Hoban,
Pastoral Director**



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ON REQUEST – PLEASE SEE ACOLYTE BEFORE MASS

15 July – 15th Sunday in Ord Time

MINISTRY ROSTER

Welcomers: Volunteers needed

Acolyte: Volunteer needed

Servers: Feba Abby, Tissa Thomas

Readers: Maria & Genesis Raymundo, Corrie Merdegia, Aileen Sebastian

AV operator: Ben Caliguiran

Eucharistic Min: Volunteer needed

Hospitality: Volunteer needed

If you are not able to fulfil your ministry role, or if you would like to volunteer for a vacant role, please email marsdenpark@parracatholic.org

Plenary Council 2020

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future. To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: **"What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"** Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website, now online: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

We welcome our Celebrant this week:

Fr. Marcelo (Bong) of the Camillians.

OUR COMMUNITY PRAYER

O God
 You show us in St Luke, our patron,
 a person of faith
 who desired all people to come to know and
 love you
 in the community of your Church.

Teach us to embrace what St Luke
 pioneered:
 discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Trusting in your love and grace
 and nourished by Word and Sacrament
 may we grow in our relationship with you
 and together make our Catholic Faith
 Community
 a community of communities,
 a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink
 in the midst of their journey,
 and a center of constant missionary
 outreach.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Luke, pray for us.
 St Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
 pray for us.
 Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Pentecost Pastoral Letter

A Pentecost Pastoral Letter from Bishop
 Vincent Long OFM Conv and the Bishops
 Commission for the Plenary Council can be
 found here:

www.catholicoutlook.org/pentecost

ACYMC 2018

Early-bird registration for the Australian
 Catholic Youth Ministry Convention hosted
 by the Diocese of Parramatta on behalf of
 the Australian Catholic Bishops is now open
 at www.acymc.org.au. The event will host
 up to 500 adult delegates who are engaged
 in ministry with young people in parishes,
 schools, agencies and ministries of the
 Catholic Church. Rooty Hill RSL, September
 21-23. Contact James Camden, Director,
 Catholic Youth Parramatta for more
 information (02) 8838 3428 or
james.camden@parracatholic.org

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses

The Office for Worship is taking enrolments
 for its Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses
 for those who are interested in being
 Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of
 Communion, Bringing Communion to the
 Sick and Dying. To be held at the Institute
 for Mission at 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown.
 Enrolments close 9 August. NOTE:
 Introduction Session on 16 August is

compulsory. Please see your Parish office
 for a form or for more information contact
ivergano@parra.catholic.org.au or 02 8838
 3456 or [parracatholic.org/office-for-
 worship/](http://parracatholic.org/office-for-worship/)

Australian Catholic Historical Society**Lecture: 15 July**

Emeritus Professor Desmond Cahill OAM -
 Humanae vitae: The beginning of the end of
 Tridentine Clericalism? Visit ACHS website
[www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.co
 m.au](http://www.australiancatholichistoricalsociety.com.au) for more information.

Sydney World Youth Day Mass: 20 July

July 20 2018 will mark 10 years since the
 Archdiocese of Sydney hosted World Youth
 Day 2008. To this day, WYD08 remains one
 of the most powerful demonstrations of
 faith our country has seen. To celebrate the
 10th anniversary, Catholics from across
 Sydney are invited to join Archbishop
 Anthony Fisher for a special Mass, followed
 by food and cultural performances plus the
 announcement of a number of new
 initiatives for youth ministry. Mass at
 5:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral, followed by
 WYD08 event at 7:00pm at the St Mary's
 Cathedral College Hall. All welcome.

'Come and See' Weekend Retreat for Women: 21 July

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
 offer weekend retreats for women aged 18-
 35 who want to discern their vocation to
 religious life. These retreats offer a one-to-
 one encounter and include prayer time,
 talks and accompaniment. Bring only a holy
 Bible and a smile! From 2:30pm at Holy
 Spirit Convent, 120 Capuchin Way,
 Plumpton. Contact Sr Paula on 0449656406
 or at vocationscsfn@gmail.com

SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday 10.00am in The Hub
 St Luke's Catholic College (Enter via
 Frontier Ave Marsden Park)

CONTACT US

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 Hoban
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 npark)
 Postal Address: PO Box 85,
 Plumpton NSW 2761

SCHOOL ENQUIRIES: 9854 3100
www.stlukesmarsdenpark.catholic.edu.au

Faith in Marriage Seminar: 3 August

All are welcome to attend the 2018 'Faith in
 Marriage' Seminar address is entitled
 'Marriage & Men in Contemporary Society'
 and will be given by Robert Falzon co-
 founder of menALIVE. All parishioners are
 warmly welcome to attend this free event
 on Friday 3 August at 7.30pm at the
 Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion St,
 Blacktown. Please RSVP to
lmf@parracatholic.org or phone 88383460

Office for Worship Formation Day: 11 August

The Office for Worship is offering a Ministry
 of Communion to the Sick and Dying
 Ongoing Formation Day on Saturday 11
 August, 9.30am – 2.00pm (Morning Tea and
 lunch provided) at the Institute for Mission,
 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown. RSVP by 6 of
 August, 2018. For more information or to
 register contact Ingrid on 88383456 or at
ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org

St Philomena Association Holy Masses: 11 August

St John Vianney was very devoted
 to St Philomena. Pope Gregory XVI called
 her "the great wonder worker". Mass at
 midday with Confession from 11.30am:
 St John Vianney's Church, 17 Cameron St,
 Doonside. A short walk north from
 Doonside station, the one past Blacktown.
 Please bring a snack to share. Contact
 Elizabeth on 0423154463 or at
epeoples9@gmail.com

Holy Spirit Seminary Open Day: 19 August
 "Come and See Day" at Holy Spirit
 Seminary, Harris Park on 19 August 2018 is



Sunday, July 8, 2018

14th Sunday in Ordinary
time

a whole-day event, inspired by Our Lord's invitation to the two disciples of John the Baptist to "Come and see", found in the Gospel of John. Open Day provides single men open to a priestly vocation with the opportunity to experience seminary life, beginning with Holy Mass at St Oliver's Parish Church at 10 am, followed by talks, a tour, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and dinner with Bishop Vincent. RSVP essential. Contact Fr John Paul Escarlan via johnpaul.escarlan@parracatholic.org or 0420 310 771 for further information.

**Pilgrimage from Prague to Dubrovnik in
September-October School Holidays**

A three-week pilgrimage - The Shrines and Cathedrals of Central Europe - from Prague to Dubrovnik in the September-October School Holidays will be led by Fr John McSweeney from St John 23rd Parish, Stanhope Gardens. For more information contact Harvest Journeys on 1800 819 156 or info@harvestjourneys.com