

Ministry Roster Second Sunday of Advent, W/E 5th/6th December,2020.

Ministry	5:00 PM	8:00AM	9:00 AM.
<u>Acolyte:</u>	P Ryan.	G Verhoeven.	G Verhoeven.
<u>Commentator:</u>	T Burgheim	Volunteer.	C Van Gelderen.
<u>Reader:</u>	T O'Donnell	Volunteer.	E Wynne-Jones.
<u>Flowers:</u>	P Currie(Baptism).		
<u>Cleaning:</u>	T Griffiths & M McGowan.		

Madonna Magazine – a gift of spiritual sustenance that lasts a whole year.

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Congratulations to Miya and Bridie McGrath on their Baptism into our Catholic Community last weekend.

May these little ones and their family receive many blessings now that they have become sisters to Jesus and will share with Jesus in the building of the Kingdom of God.

Catholic Outlook Magazine Summer 2020/21 Edition.

Look out for copies of the next edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine in your local Catholic Church, Catholic school or Catholic office from early December. Catholic Outlook is an A4 magazine published quarterly with a focus on Catholic faith formation, spirituality and a look at what is happening across the agencies and ministries of the Diocese of Parramatta.

Many thanks to all who have helped in this unique time to prepare for and celebrate Confirmation .

We would especially like to thank the parents who had to find time in their busy lives to prepare their child with only very limited connection to the parish Sacramental team. They have had to work extremely hard reading extra background information, planning and preparing a time to workshop, reflect and pray about the theology of Confirmation; all at a level that their child can understand. We are sure that they have been rewarded with the building of the spiritual relationship between the parents and children and resulting in an increase of faith and love of the Holy Spirit for the whole family.

We pray for many blessings for all.

The Sacramental Team.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God's unconditional love and keep families together. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare's Project Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

**Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .**

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**

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Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316.

Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0415 077 969.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 3.30 pm.

The Church will be open for private prayer during office hours.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM. Sunday 8:00 AM & 9:00 AM.

Weekday Mass: 5:00PM Tuesday and Wednesday and 9:00 AM Thursday.

24 people only at each Mass. Call the parish office or 0418 214 548 before 5:00PM on

Fridays to confirm your attendance at the Mass of your choice or you MAY be denied entry.

Covid-19 and social distancing restrictions apply to all Masses.

Baptisms: **First & Third Saturdays.** By appointment, call the parish office.

Reconciliation: By appointment .Call the parish office.

Weddings: By appointment six months notice. Call the parish office.

Funerals: By appointment. Call the parish office.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated this Saturday during 3 liturgies celebrated by Father Paul. During this past week the families have been reaching the conclusion of their preparation at home.

The focus was the actual Confirmation ceremony with the highpoint being the **Anointing of each Candidate with the sacred Oil of Chrism.** This anointing confirms the anointing received by the Candidate at **Baptism when they were anointed as Priest, Prophet and King.** Confirmation time in our community is a good time to give thanks for this great honour of the Priesthood of Jesus which he has shared with each one of us through our Baptismal and Confirmation Anointing.

We pray that we may always seek to find ways of living this wonderful mission generously shared with us by the Spirit of Jesus.

What I say to you, I say to all: "Watch!"

Rough mountains, steep pathways, rugged trails with ruts,
or sometimes, cool trails, running streams.

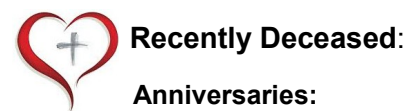
Whether rough roads or sunny streets let us never stop watching
for you, O Lord.

Come to us as we walk with one another
on the pathway of time.

We look for you in all things, all creation, every event,
every love, every one we meet, along the way.

Anne Osdieck.





Sick: Fr Theo Arrivoli, Victor Gresser (Child), Rob Nickl, Tochillo Brown. Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci John Newman , Raymond Plumridge, Mark Geerligs, Rita D'Amico, John McInerney, Peter Nickl and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

The Sunday Readings.

First Reading
Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7
Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19
A prayer for the Lord's protection

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading
Mark 13:33-37
Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of [Advent](#), which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

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Principal: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz



Lectio Divina(Sacred Reading.)

Lectio Divina has a very long history, going back to the time of Jesus himself, who loved and taught from the Hebrew Scriptures. The Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 3rd and 4th century treasured the Word of God, as the basis of their prayer and spirituality. Cassian and others passed on this tradition to St. Benedict who centred his teaching on Scripture.

As Benedict suggests, the art of Lectio Divina begins with cultivating an ability to listen deeply to the voice of God who reveals himself to us through his Word in stillness and silence. There are various ways of doing Lectio but we can just select a short passage of Scripture; allow it to touch our hearts; and ask for God's help to live it out in our daily lives. My own approach is simple.

Like the Desert Fathers and Mothers who used to ask their 'mentor' for 'a word' or 'a word of wisdom' for that day, I ask Jesus for a word from Scripture to carry with me throughout the day to inspire, strengthen and encourage me. Usually a word or phrase from a chosen passage will stand out for me, and remain in my heart for the rest of the day.

"St. Benedict saw Lectio as an integral part of our Christian living....the purpose of Lectio is not the acquisition of knowledge.

Benedict's Lectio is another exercise in self-transcendence. We are not trying to possess what we study but use that study to help us respond to the presence of God...A loving reading and reflection upon the Word of Scripture is, in Benedict's vision, essential in forming the monastic as a person of prayer." (John Main, 'Community of Love' p. 131-132).

These are but a few thoughts on Lectio Divina. More important still is not only to read about it but to actually do it! Our daily Lectio will support us and sustain us on our spiritual journey, and help us in our daily life.

Much love,

Hilda OSB (Edited version T. O'Donnell)

Sr. Hilda is a Benedictine Sister at St. Benedict's Monastery, Winnipeg Canada. She comes from a very ecumenical background: with a Methodist father, a Congregationalist mother, who attended the Anglican Church in England. After attending a convent school Sr. Hilda became a Catholic, and entered the cloistered Benedictines in England. When the community became diminished and eventually had to close she came to Canada in 1981. Sr. Hilda has a background in Scripture, monastic history etc. and has been a meditator for more than 20 years. She has given retreats and workshops on the Rule of Benedict, the mystics, as well as on Christian meditation. She is coordinator of the WCCM Oblates in Canada, and also leads a meditate