

Ministry Roster First Sunday of Advent, W/E 28th/29th November ,2020.

Ministry	5:00 PM	8:00AM	9:00 AM.
<u>Acolyte:</u>	R Kemmis.	A Skofic.	A Skofic
<u>Commentator:</u>	J Leather	Volunteer.	Volunteer.
<u>Reader:</u>	A Leather	Volunteer.	C Van Gelderen.
<u>Flowers:</u>	K Powell(Baptism).		
<u>Cleaning:</u>	Volunteer.		

Food Drive for Refugees.

Earlier this year, as part of our commitment to belonging to the Blue Mountains Deanery, our parish community and most of the parishes within our deanery had food drives for refugees. These refugees are in precarious financial difficulties as a result of the Corona Virus emergency.

The response from our small catholic community at Our Lady of Nativity was wonderful. We had an enormous quantity of food and blankets to contribute to the Food Drive. However, the need is ongoing and increasing, so, we have plans to have another food drive in February next year. In fact, Parramatta Diocese has now organised a roster upon which any parish can register, so that the food drives dates can extend over time to provide regular deliveries to all of the families who need support. Lawson parish is already registered for a final food collection date on the 21st February 2021.

Both of your deanery representatives are proud of the compassionate support by our small community. In addition, we are inspired by the other parishes which are also part of the Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council.

Maureen Ryan and Carol Teodori.

Lawson Members of the Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council.Permanent Diaconate Information Session: 12 December.

Couples considering a call to the Permanent Diaconate are invited to attend an information session on Saturday 12 December from 10am to 12noon at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. Couples who decide to proceed with the discernment process will be asked to meet with the Vocations Committee in 2021. To RSVP, please contact Deacon Willy Limjap on 0428 332 619 or wlimjap@gmail.com or Deacon George Bryan on 0408 440 769 or George.Bryan@parracatholic.org

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.**

Phone: 4759 1034.

Email: olon3@bigpond.com / lawson@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

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

Assistant Priest: Fr Michael Gathuku - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0474 272 605.

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.

Our Confirmation Program and the Fruits of the Spirit.

Our Confirmation Candidates are now in the final stages of preparation after exploring the wonderful Gifts of the Spirit. The candidates have now been challenged to use their Gifts in their everyday life. The traditional **Fruits of the Spirit** such as " love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control" (Gal 5: 22) are revealed in life by those in touch with the Holy Spirit.

The final week's preparation concluded with a **family prayer time** where each family member prayed that the Fruit of the Spirit that they most need will continue to grow in their lives. Then, they chose a piece of real fruit that had a hidden label. Once the fruit had been picked from the bowl a spiritual Fruit of the Spirit was revealed. In a way it does not matter which Fruit of the Spirit was chosen as we really need to exhibit all of them!

Let us pray, to the Holy Spirit that all of the soon to be Confirmed Candidates and ourselves aspire to all nine fruits of the Spirit especially joy at this time in our parish community.

The Parish Sacramental Team.Many Thanks.

My family and I would like to thank the people of our wonderful parish for all the prayers and support during the illness of my brother-in law, John who passed away some days ago.

Cheryl Ambrosi.



Recently Deceased: John Ambrosoli

Anniversaries: William Scott Kemmis.

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 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.*

Preparing for Christmas through Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading)

In view of Fr. Paul's encouragement, as an option for a reflective **Season of Advent**, I am offering a series of four, small group meetings that explore the *prayerful* reading of Scripture found amongst the Advent readings.

You may already be familiar with the practice of **Lectio Divina**. But, if you are not, you may find that it provides you with a new and refreshing way to integrate the reading of scripture into your prayer-life. As a Benedictine oblate it is a regular practice for me, which has enriched my appreciation of the Word of God and its relevance to my everyday life, over many years. It is an ancient form of Christian prayer. Saint Gregory the Great said, *"Through Lectio Divina we learn to know the heart of God through the Word of God."*

Therefore, you are invited to join our Lectio group on **the four Saturdays of Advent, November, 28, December 5, 12 & 19**. We will meet at **3:00pm** in the **Santa Maria Hall**. Each session should take about one hour. Feel free to come to as many as you can.

Because of COVID-19, **numbers will be limited** and we will be observing all protocols.

Please **book your place** with your name and contact details on the form at the back of the church, or by phoning the parish office.

Thank you for your interest, and please contact me anytime.

Terry O'Donnell
(0430 209 415)

*Your words were found and I ate them,
And your words became to me a joy
And the delight of my heart
(Jeremiah 15:16)*

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

7 Somers Street, Lawson. Phone:

4753 2200. Email:

oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

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 meditation group in her own monastery.