

Ministry Roster 18th Sunday in Ord Time, 1st August, 2021.

Ministry5:00 PM8:00AM9:00 AM.

Acolyte:
Commentator:

Reader:
Flowers:
Cleaning:

If you are unable to carry out your ministry please organise a replacement or call Richard on 04198 214 548.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope Francis has proclaimed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on the fourth Sunday in July each year – July 25 this year. It is marked near the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. Parishes, schools, aged care facilities and other ministries are encouraged to find creative ways to celebrate the contribution of older people to their families and communities. Access resources at www.catholic.org.au/grandparents

Fan the Flame – Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021.

“Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready” *John 6:1-15*

Grace moves God’s people to ask questions grounded in the call we received at Baptism: how do we better nourish, accompany, give witness, support, invite, welcome, engage and be present to others, such that we all grow in holiness? (*Prayerful and Eucharistic – Discernment Paper p. 6*)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/

The Well offers spiritual nourishment during lockdown.

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese’s ‘on demand’ streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

Postponed Sacraments of Initiation

Given the situation with the covid virus in Greater Sydney, we have no choice but to postpone the celebration of the Sacraments First Communion and Confirmation indefinitely.

Hopefully things will improve and it might be possible to consider rebooking the masses within the next couple of months.

It is a strange time for all of us and I know that many of the families involved in these two important Sacraments of Initiation will be quite disappointed but they also be busy with many things including home schooling. The Holy Spirit lives in all our families, today, regardless of the mess and confusion in our lives, and so we pray that the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit will help them, and indeed all of us, all through these days and weeks.

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"; from the Gospel of John 14:16

Maureen Ryan.



Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .

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Email: lawson@parracatholic.org

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 is closed.

Weekend Masses: CANCELLED.
Weekday Masses: CANCELLED.

All church buildings and Masses in the Diocese are closed and cancelled until further notice.
Funerals only can still take place in our church with up to 10 attendees. Please call the office.

A Poem to Sit With, 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

When Jesus saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip,
“Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?”

Sitio

That terrible

Thirst of the Crucified

whose posture imputed

blame to none

but only

love

longing unto

the spilling of blood

so precious

are we to him

his only crown

treasure

all—he gives

his self bread

to become us

and begs only


belief that forgiveness

is his hunger us to hallow

J. Janda.

One of his disciples, Andrew said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” (Gospel





Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Bill Sattler, Sr Helen Micallef sgs, & Anne Riley.

Sick: Fr Theo Arrivoli, Rob Nickl, Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Raymond Plumridge, Mark Geerligs, Rita D'Amico, 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.*

First Reading.

2 Kings 4:42-44

Elisha the prophet feeds 100 people with 20 barley loaves. Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

The Lord feeds his people and answers their needs.

Second Reading.

Ephesians 4:1-6

The Ephesians are encouraged to live the unity of their Baptism.

Gospel Reading.

John 6:1-15

Jesus feeds the crowd of more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish.

Background on the Gospel Reading,

Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent his disciples to share in his mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."

In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. (In John's Gospel three Passovers are identified.) Jesus' language is similar to the language he used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who wants to make Jesus a king. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven. Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us. The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY

SCHOOL

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The Perspective of Justice.

The prophet Elisha fed a hundred people with twenty barley loaves, and there were leftovers. Jesus fed about five thousand with five barley loaves and a couple of dried fish, and there were leftovers. That is God's desire for us: everyone should find food in abundance.

Today's reality is different. Every three days more people die from malnutrition and disease than from the bombing of Hiroshima, and every year more people die from preventable hunger than died in the Holocaust, even though we grow enough grain in the world to provide every man, woman, and child with a satisfactory diet of 3000 calories.

The Second Reading from Ephesians tells us to "make every effort to preserve the unity which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force." The problem with the world is its fragmentation; it lacks unity and peace.

The problem is not with God's providence, for God has provided us with enough food for everyone, and then some.

The problem is the divisions in the world that prevent food from getting to people or keep people away from the food.

God has given blessings to the world: if only we could learn to use those blessings for the benefit of all.

Since there are so many people in this world afflicted with hunger, this sacred Council urges all, both individuals and governments, to remember the saying of the Fathers: "Feed the man dying of hunger, because if you have not fed him you have killed him."

Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965: paragraph 69.
Gerald Darring.

