

Ministry Roster.				
THIS WEEK Baptism, (9th Jan.)			NEXT WEEK, 2nd Sunday, Ord Time . (16th Jan.)	
Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM
<u>Acolyte:</u>	R Kemmis.	J Hall.	R Kemmis.	G Verhoeven.
<u>Commentator:</u>	Alan W.	Volunteer.	T Burgheim.	T Griffiths.
<u>Reader:</u>	Ang W.	Cathy V G.	M Golez.	Michael David.
<u>Flowers:</u>	P Currie.		J Gannon.	
<u>Cleaning:</u>	Volunteers .		L Beaman & P Currie.	

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

Recently Deceased: Rita D’Amico.

Anniversaries: John West.

Sick: Fr Theo Arrivoli, Rob Nickl, Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Raymond Plumridge, Rita D’Amico, Anthony Griffin, 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.*

Many thanks to those who have been putting their **"Used Postage Stamps"** in the parish stamp **collection box in the church foyer.** It had been a bit slow last year, as is the case for many things, but we do now have a reasonable amount of stamps that will be **forwarded to the Sisters of St Joseph, North Sydney at the end of January.** These stamps are auctioned off to collectors a couple of times during the year, the proceeds of which are used for the **Mary MacKillop International Aid.** For many years, our parish has been forwarding used stamps collected, so thank you again everyone for continuing to save your postage stamps and contributing to this

Our Parish's Over 50s Group will recommence this year with an initial meeting in the **Santa Maria Hall on Wednesday, 19th January,** commencing at 10.30am with morning tea followed by a **BYO lunch,** morning tea will be supplied. The meeting will finish around 1pm. As Australia Day falls on the last Wednesday of the month (our usual meeting date) our January meeting will be brought forward by one week. Our January meetings are always set for planning our get togethers for the rest of the year, so bring along any ideas that you may have for our hall meetings and hopeful outings, which usually occur every second month as from March. Visitors/new members (both men and women) are always welcome to pop into one of our meetings to see what we get up to. There is always lots of talking and laughter amongst us, so if you would like to meet others members of our parish community, come along and you will be made very welcome. The group started off in May 2005 (nearly 17 years) with around 40 attending, some have since left us or moved away with new members keeping our numbers up. We currently have 17 active members (men and women) and have always had a strong attendance each month, enjoying the social and planned activities. If you would like to know a little more about our active group, please contact **Paula Currie on 0416 185 651.** Our January and February (23rd) meetings will be held in the Santa Maria Hall (behind the convent next to the church). All public health rules and restrictions will always be adhered to, and all of our current members have shown **proof of being double vaccinated and a check-in is also one of the requirements for our meetings.** Both of these are a necessity for being able to attend our get togethers so that we can stay safe. Let's pray that 2022 will bring us good health, peace and lots of happy times. Hope to see you at our January meeting.



Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**
Phone: 4759 1034 or 0418 214 548.
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 open 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Thursday and Friday. Please call to book.

Weekend Masses: **Saturday 5:00 PM. Sunday 8:30 AM.**

Weekday Masses: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 5:00PM & Thursdays at 9:00 AM.**

Capacity Limit: 48 people at each Mass.

Please sign in with the QR code or write your name on the attendance sheets. The wearing of masks is now **compulsory.**

Baptisms: First & third Saturdays at 11:00 AM.

Weddings: Call the office & six months notice. **Funerals:** Call the office.

A Poem to Sit With.

The Baptism of the Lord C.

Christ, Our Earth
We are given moments of clarity,

which give meaning to what we do,
without obliterating the fact of suffering,

which we have experienced and know we can experience
a peace, a joy, a knowing that what was begun in
us, will be completed in us,

a desire, a wisdom, a love
in us, over which we have
no control but much control,

for this
we thank you, Father.

J. Janda

The Baptism of Christ c.1475
Andrea Verrocchio (1435-88)
& Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)





THIS WEEK'S READINGS.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (The first reading from Cycle A may also be chosen, *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7*.)

Isaiah tells the people to prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30 (The psalm from Cycle A may also be chosen, *Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10*.)

A prayer praising God's greatness

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (The second reading from Cycle A may also be chosen, *Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38*.)

Jesus Christ saved us and renewed us with his Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Jesus is baptized by John.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another “epiphany.” On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

SANTA MARIA CONFERENCE

CENTRE

Available for meetings,
functions and conferences.

Phone Sr Veronica on

Synod of Bishops – Have your say.

What would you say to Pope Francis if you had 10 minutes? Catholics across the world are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops. Find out how to send your message at parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops

Thank You for Supporting CatholicCare's Houses to Homes.

Thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Your donation will help CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2022.

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will begin early next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the Office for Worship on (02) 8838 3456 or anne.stanton@parracatholic.org or visit our

Parish Support.

Thank you, Lawson Community for giving and continuing to give to our parish by direct debit or EFTS transfer weekly, fortnightly or monthly. This income, together with support from the NSW Government is assisting us to keep our parish going during the lockdown.

Should you wish to donate the details are;

BSB: 067 950. Account No: 00000164. Account Name: Lawson Our Lady of Nativity.

Thank you all for your ongoing, generous support.