

GOSPEL FOCUS

Fear

When scripture uses the term fear, it tends to fall into one of two meanings. When used in the context of 'do not be afraid' or 'fear not', it is a command to not be daunted by the woes and trials that the world imposes. The other use tends to be a command that we should fear God. In this context, the word does not mean to be frightened of God but rather to show proper reverence. To fear God is to stand in wonder and awe rather than to cower and hide. So, fear God, but do not be afraid!

Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It covers such topics as listening skills, empathy, grief and loss, self-awareness and hospital procedures.

The course will be conducted over six Mondays from 9am to 4pm, beginning on 17 July and concluding on 21 August at Mackillop Parish, Charlestown. A certificate is awarded on completion. Registration is due by 1 July. For more information contact Fr Roger Zohrab 0408 151 481 or roger.zohrab@health,nsw.gov.au.

Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Marriage Tribunal

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses with marriage breakdown and divorce, and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370.

Changes to our Weekday Mass Schedule

I've been approached by some parishioners who are interested in adding one more Mass to our weekday Mass schedule. The request is for a Mass to be celebrated on a Tuesday.

I would encourage parishioners to talk about among yourself and then let me know what the thinking of the two parishes are.

Fr Andrew

Parish Liturgical Conversations

With my apologies for the delay caused by the recent head cold, I am delighted to announce that the first of the "Liturgical Conversations" will take place on **Thursday 6 July** in the Dungog Parish Hall commencing at **4pm**.

The session will be repeated at St Helen's, East Gresford on **Saturday 8 July** commencing at 10.30am.

The first conversation will go back to the beginning and address the liturgical principles that came from the Second Vatican Council's first document, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

Sacraments of Initiation for Children

All the online modules are now available any for children wishing to complete their journey to full Christian Initiation. Enrolment into the process is as simple as filling out an online form available on the Parishes' website—visit bit.ly/3NumAv7 for all the details.

For children who might not yet be baptised, or who were baptised in other church traditions, the journey is slightly different and will require some additional steps. The best place to start a conversation about this is by contacting Fr Andrew.

Please pass this information on to anyone who might find it helpful.

2023 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service

The diocesan 2023 NAIDOC Week Prayer Service will take place on **Sunday 2 July 2023** starting at **1pm** in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton. All are invited to attend.

The service is held in collaboration with local Aboriginal and faith communities. Join with local Elders, including Canon Aunty Di Langham, who will lead a special reflection.

The service will include an official Welcome to Country with Aunty Sandra Griffin, Awabakal Country. A special water ceremony will take place and those attending are asked to bring a small container of water from Country with them on the day.

Refreshments and light meal will be served.

RSVP are requested by Sunday 25 June via NAIDOCprayerservice.eventbrite.com.au or by contacting Kate P: (02) 4979 1329.

Availability of Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated regularly. More details can be found on the Parish website under the 'Mass Times' tab at the top.

The Liturgy of the Word—Part 8

Having looked at the various elements that constitute the Liturgy of the Word, this week's column—the final column—is more of a summary of what's already been written, though there may be a few new insights as well.

The Importance of the Word

One of the significant fruits of the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council is a stronger focus on the place of readings from Scripture during all of our liturgical celebrations, especially during Mass.

Not only do we now have readings from a wider range of the Scriptures, but we also recognise that the Liturgy of the Word feeds us from the first table that we attend during the celebration of Mass.

All of the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church now features this important element known as the Liturgy of the Word—and we are richer for it.

Structure

The overall structure of the Liturgy of the Word is as follows:

Silence

First Reading

Silence

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Silence

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading

Homily

Silence

The Creed (or Symbol of Faith)

The Universal Prayer

The Significance of Silence

As can be seen from the overall structure, periods of silence play an important role in the Liturgy of the Word. Silence gives us the opportunity to truly savour what we have heard proclaimed, to reflect on God speaking to us through the Scriptures.

Silence also allows us to avoid "undue haste" so that the whole of the Liturgy of the Word is an opportunity for prayer and being nourished rather than something that needs to be done before we move on to the next part of our Mass or liturgy.

How long should these silences last? That will always depend on the particular circumstances of each liturgy, so it's hard to provide a definitive answer to that question. What is appropriate one Sunday in one place might be different to what is appropriate the next Sunday or on the same Sunday in a different place.

The Ritual Nature of the Liturgy of the Word

Like all elements of the Church's liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word is ritual in nature and therefore requires us to honour that nature. The words we use to introduce and conclude the various readings from Scripture are fixed in the Lectionary and are to be followed so that we keep to the ritual nature of not only the proclamation of Scripture but of the liturgy itself.

This also means that personal preferences or leanings need to be avoided so that we celebrate the liturgy of the Church as it has been handed to us (significantly, this is one of the promises made by priests at their ordination). We do not have the option of changing things just because we don't like them.

The Proclamation of Scripture

While we refer to the various passages from Scripture that are used during the Liturgy of the Word as "readings", we don't read the Scriptures during the liturgy. Scripture passages are proclaimed, which is a completely different approach to reading.

The proclamation of Scripture is a ritual action—words are spoken, and words are heard. This means that during the Liturgy of the Word, we need to listen and hear what is being proclaimed, an act that brings into question the use of personal missals during the Liturgy of the Word for anyone other than those hard of hearing (another question for another time!).

Proclamation also requires advance preparation, which will also be a preferred option to being asked to "do the readings" five minutes before Mass commences. While that happens from time to time from necessity, it will always be better for those who will proclaim the readings from Scripture to know *in advance* so they can prayerfully prepare to exercise this important ministry.

So What's Next?

Well, nothing, really. The plan will be to collate all eight parts that have appeared in the Bulletin into a booklet that will be available both on the website and in our churches. That little project will take place over the coming weeks—so watch for an announcement in the Bulletin.

After that, if local communities would like to review the way in which they celebrate the Liturgy of the Word, we can arrange for meetings and workshops to take place. Together we can determine best practice based on what is said in the Missal's *General Instruction* and move forward with celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in a prayerful and meaningful manner.

Fine!

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 26 June

Tuesday 27 June

Solemnity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
(Diocesan Patronal Feast)

Wednesday 28 June

Memorial of St Irenaeus

5.30pm Mass @ Dungog

Thursday 29 June

Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul

9.30am Mass @ East Gresford

Friday 30 June

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Saturday 1 July

10am Confessions @ Dungog

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 2 July

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Jeremiah 20:10-13

Psalms Psalm 68

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

2nd Reading Romans 5:12-15

Acclamation John 15:26, 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 10:26-33

Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Planned Giving Receipts

As we approach the end of the 2022/2023 financial year, those who would like a receipt for their contribution are asked to let Kerry know **via the Parish Office** (phone, email or writing) before 30 June 2023. It will not be possible to issue receipts if they are not requested in advance.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea in Clarence Town will take place next week (2 July) after the 8am Mass. Please bring a plate to share, and join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June: "We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families."

In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died:

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In June:

Nora Enright, Tom Richardson, Mary Clayden, Rudd Convery, Laura Black, Daphne Oades, Bede Johnson, Bruce Ralstone, Tom Stone, Noel Smith, Meryl Ryan, Edward Kealy, William Hudson, Sydney & Zita Osmond, Helen Collins, Gisela Kirston, Joan Oliver, Fr Brian Bailey, Kenny Barry, Roy Preece, Ken Cooper, Cheryl Maytom, Margaret Mary Dooley.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Peter Byron, Bert Preece, Peter Rooke, Graham McCarthy, Matthew Kerr.



Safeguarding in our Parishes means ...

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: by phoning 4979 1390 or emailing childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au.

Visit the Office of Safeguarding website for further information www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au