

World Mission Sunday—22 October

World Mission Sunday, a day of special prayer in the life of the Church, will be celebrated next Sunday, 22 October.

In addition to the usual appeal for contributions to support Catholic Mission (envelopes will be in our churches next weekend), it is perhaps also vitally important to remember that “mission” is the very reason why the Church exists.

So let's pray for the mission of the Church—to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection—as we prepare to mark World Mission Sunday next week.

Advent Program 2023

The Diocese has produced an Advent Program for Advent 2023 entitled *With Anticipation and Joy* for use by those in the parish who may wish to use it, either individually or as part of a group.

A copy of the resource can be found on our website (under the 'Resources') tab.

If parishioners are unable to download and print a copy of the resource themselves, please contact the Parish Office who are able to do that for you.

Engaging Your Faith Online Lecture Series

The Catholic Theological College (located in Melbourne) is once again offering a series of online lectures across October and November.

These lectures are ideal for anyone wishing to explore the offerings of CTC for personal, theological and spiritual development. Each lecture stands alone, so you can attend one or more as you feel the need.

The cost for each lecture is \$25, and further information can be found by visiting CTC's website at bit.ly/451aeEU. Booking and payment, can be made by visiting bit.ly/3tb1YF5.

Christian Meditation

The Contemplative Pathway: Where is Meditation Leading Us?

John Carroll will explore the benefits of meditators always trying to go into deeper silence. The day will also be a session on practical ideas for how to incorporate meditation into a busy life.

When: Saturday, 11 November, 9am-12pm

Where: St James' School Hall

Vista Parade, Kotara

Cost: \$10, including morning tea.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Anne Cuskelly (phone 0407 436 808 or email manneecuskelly@hotmail.com).

ACU Public Lectures on Liturgy

In the lead up to the 60th anniversary of Vatican II's *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (it's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy dated 4 December 1963), the ACU Centre for Liturgy is proud to present two exciting public lectures by international liturgical scholars:

1. Renowned liturgical scholar **Professor Teresa Berger** (Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and Yale Divinity School) will deliver a public lecture live via Zoom on **Monday 6 November 2023** at **10am** AEDT on the topic “Liturgy's Imagined Futures: Beyond Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.”

2. Acclaimed liturgical historian and theologian **Rev Professor John F. Baldovin SJ** (Boston College) will deliver a FREE public lecture live in person on ACU's Melbourne Campus on **Sunday 3 December 2023** at **5pm** AEDT on the topic “A Liturgical Reform in Peril? Sacrosanctum Concilium sixty years on.” Fr Baldovin's public lecture will also be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person.

Further information and registration details for both of these unique and valuable events, and a flyer if desired, can be found at the following link: bit.ly/3Q05IXI.

The Centre for Liturgy looks forward to welcoming those attending these very special events marking this important milestone anniversary.

For more information on the events, please contact CentreforLiturgy@acu.edu.au.

gospel focus

'How did you get in here?'

In light of the inclusive kingdom metaphor in this passage, the final portion of the gospel may be a bit troubling to readers. When a guest is not wearing a wedding garment he is cast out of the banquet. We might say that being invited at the last minute the guest was unable to find suitable clothing. It is a sign that although he has been an unlikely inclusion in the banquet, he has not made any effort to respond to the generosity of the king and take up one of the cloaks that would have been provided and thus give due honour to his host. This is symbolic of those who refuse to change their ways and do not live as followers of Jesus even when they have been included in the kingdom.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

These days young couples ask for their children to be baptised for a variety of reasons. Initially, it's clear that for some, baptism is an elaborate naming ceremony, or the ritual preliminaries to having a 'we've had a baby party'. For others, while they don't quite know why they want baptism, they just know they do. And for some parents it's clear that they wish to pass on to their children the life of Christ that has nurtured them.

At the baptismal ceremony, I always begin by saying that for the first three centuries of the Church's history, this sacrament was celebrated at dawn on the Easter Vigil not only because the rising sun symbolised Christ's light dawning in our lives, but because baptism was always done in secret. For 300 years Christians who took the waters of baptism at dawn could be dead by lunchtime. For them, baptism was no social day out; it was a life and death commitment.

In the parable of the King's banquet, Jesus foreshadows the days when those whom one would expect to be Christian would reject the invitation to faith, and those thought least likely to respond to God's call would flock into the Church.

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the Wedding Banquet was seen as a metaphor for two things: the Eucharist and Eternal Life. Curiously, this parable, while using the imagery of the Banquet, is less concerned about the meal and more about who's in and who's out, and why!

We can see this through the tenants who turn down the opportunity to go to a Royal Wedding – still an almost unimaginable thing to do. It's seen in the poor who recognise the gift and the giver, get dressed up and have somewhere to go. And it's seen in the impostor who is not correctly dressed for the occasion and is speechless when called to account.

This last character is clearly the one in the earliest Christian community who has taken the waters of baptism, but was betraying St Matthew's persecuted community. When discovered, people like this guest were thrown out. In Matthew's time, impostors cost lives.

So what does all this have to say to our own time? It's not about how one dresses for Mass or for Eternal life! It's not about the fear of being found wanting in being able to mouth the right words when called to account. It is about being poor enough to recognise the gift of God in the invitation to faith and about being generous enough to respond completely. For taking care about what we say and do, the values by which

we live our lives at home, at work, at play and in the way we relate to each other is how we show that we mean what we profess. It is also how others legitimately judge whether we are really genuine about our faith or just another impostor.

Like the earliest Christians, when we were baptised we were clothed in a white garment – a wedding robe. Like theirs, our baptismal day was no naming ceremony and no social day out. It was the day we were issued with a standing invitation to the feast of life in Christ where people act as they profess, and where frauds are spotted a mile away.

© Richard Leonard SJ

Richard Leonard SJ is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

The Synod Convenes...

On 4 October, the Universal phase of the 16th Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops gathering entitled "For a Synodal Church. Communion, Participation, Mission"



came together under the presidency of Pope Francis. This journey has been in process since October 2021, and this first session of the Universal phase represents the culmination of a long process of listening, consultation and conversation.

Although we won't be directly participating in the Synod session, we can be part of the process by praying with and for those gathered in Rome. The website for the Synod has resources available to help us. Visit www.synod.va for more details.

The Catholic Parishes of Dungog & Gresford recognize we stand upon the traditional country of Gringai clan of the Worimi people, who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years.

We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country. We pay our respects to their Elders—past, present, and emerging—and commit ourselves to working together for reconciliation and justice.

The Parish Diary (for the week ahead)

28th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 16 October

Tuesday 17 October
St Ignatius of Antioch

Wednesday 18 October
Feast of St Luke

No Mass Fr Andrew in Newcastle for Ethics Committee meeting.

Thursday 19 October

No Mass Fr Andrew attending to Police Chaplaincy matters.

Friday 20 October

9.30am Mass @ Dungog (with the Year 5 & 6 students from St Joseph's)

Saturday 21 October

5.30pm Mass @ East Gresford

Sunday 22 October

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8am Mass @ Clarence Town

9.30am Mass @ Dungog

Today's Liturgy:

1st Reading Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalm Psalm 22

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

2nd Reading Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Acclamation Cf Ephesians 1:17-18
Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Morning Tea at Dungog

The next morning tea at Dungog will be held after the 9.30am Mass today (15 October). Please join us for good food, good company, and good conversation.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October:

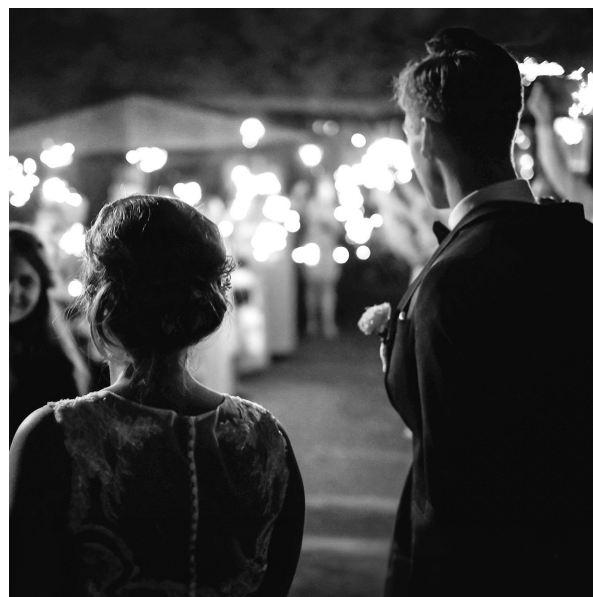
"We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world."

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



In Your Charity, Please Pray for:

Those Who Have Died: Carmel Hawke, Ray Tonkin (Qld), Peter Rooke, Aileen Gornall, Heather Dawn Atkins.

Those Whose Anniversary of Death Is In October: Bert Clark, Jaimie Richardon, Bonnie Hulbert, Bruce Everding, Ned Garland, Mark Bannister, Michael Wills, Fred Dickerson, Scott Bowman, Irma Iacono, Paul Brockwell, Brian Doyle, Maria Kealy, Raymond & Phyliss MacKay, Peter James McMullen, Mary Isabelle Preece, Margaret Banister, Paul Bryon, Doris Murray, Carl Nolan, Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lonigan, Michael Scanlan. Thelma Moroney.

Those Who Are Sick: Maryann Smith, Daphne Bond, Maree McCulloch, Leonie Young, Lisa Reid, Bev Herbert, Denise Wenden, Warren Wade, Irene Robinson, Luke Barry, Kathie Maynard, Kevin Ward, Brian Holstein, David Loudon, Michaela Brown, Phillip Hartup, Bella Duggan, Ella Rusak, Matthew Kerr.