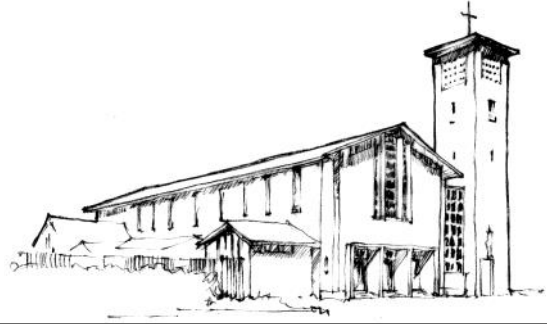


Welcome to

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY in Ordinary Time

08 July 2024

(Year B)

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045

P: 02 9798 6657

E: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

W: www.stjoanofarc.org.au

Office hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam

Thomas.Kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary:

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday evening: 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

(Check for changes on special Feast Days)

Weekdays:

Wednesday & Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan

P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan

P: 9712 2133

From the Pastor

Our Church is decorated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and special candles marking NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week. Last Sunday's Gospel message was about Jesus giving dignity and life to the women who needed it.

Similarly we respect the first people of this nation by highlighting their rich and diverse cultures. Let us take time to reflect on the historical injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including dispossession, discrimination, and the impacts of colonization. NAIDOC is a reminder of the importance of acknowledging and addressing these past wrongs. Let us pray and work towards greater solidarity, encouraging participation and involvement from people of all backgrounds. We acknowledge the ongoing struggles for Indigenous rights and social justice, advocating for equality, recognition, and the protection of Indigenous lands, cultures, and heritage. Let us live up to our motto, "That you may have life to the fullest" (John 10:10)



The National Centre for Pastoral Research.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is undertaking a research project aimed at investigating why some Catholics do not participate in regular weekly Sunday Mass (Sunday Mass includes the Saturday Vigil). The project will provide in-depth information about contemporary religious practices and beliefs of Catholics in Australia. The insights would enable parishes, movements, and school communities to respond to the trends in participation in the Church, update the Church's awareness and understanding of the present-day context, and enable responses and collaboration around the underlying factors for non/disengagement. The survey is online and can be found at: <https://bit.ly/AbsentFromTheTableSurvey>. Parishioners may bring this to attention of their Catholic friends and family members who do not attend Sunday/Saturday Vigil Mass regularly. This will be an anonymous survey and it will close on 20 August.

New Altar Servers

Congratulations to the students from our Parish school who are being commissioned as new altar servers at this Sunday's Mass.

**Annika, Adrian, Olivia M, Chiara,
Valentina, Ellie, Olivia, Tomo & Jimmy**

Thank you to our current altar servers, Rachele and Leon for helping them to complete their training.

First reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

These rebels shall know that there is a prophet among them

The Spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm 122(123)

R. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for His mercy.

To You have I lifted up my eyes, You who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. **R**

Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till He shows us His mercy. **R**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. **R**

2nd Reading**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

The Lord's power is at its best in weakness

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but He has said, 'My grace is enough for you: My power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn1 14,12

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; He sent me to bring Good News to the poor. *Allelui*

Gospel Mark 6 :1-6

'A prophet is only despised in his own country'

Jesus went to His home town and His disciples accompanied Him. With the coming of the sabbath He began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard Him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted Him, and these miracles that are worked through Him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept Him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among His own relations and in His own house'; and He could work no miracle there, though He cured a few sick people by laying His hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Planned Giving & 2023/2024 Receipts

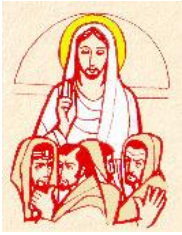
New sets of envelopes for the next Financial Year are now available in the foyer of the church. If you are not a Planned Giver, you may like to join the program. You may ask the office to set up direct debit or request a set of Planned Giving Envelopes.

In any case write your name and contact details on the sheet provided in the foyer or by sending an email to the parish office.

Your contribution to the parish is your appreciation of the parish.

If your contributed last financial year. Your receipts are available r you to pick up in the sacristy





Nella storia, nel quotidiano più ordinario, il Dio eterno si fa prossimo dell'uomo. Attra la sua attenzione e gli invia dei "segni": per esempio, facciamo l'esperienza inattesa del suo aiuto; incontriamo un uomo che testimonia di lui con forza. La sua preghiera ci coinvolge e noi "prendiamo gusto a essere con Dio". Ascoltiamo la sua parola in modo nuovo. Scopriamo subito il suo intervento negli avvenimenti della nostra vita e

scopriamo sempre più chiaramente il "filo conduttore". Ma può accadere che talvolta percepiamo l'incontro con lui come una esigenza che ci disturba, che ci irrita e ci provoca. È necessario abbandonare la terra ferma, osar affrontare l'ignoto, forse cambiare. E subito ricominciamo a fare questi ragionamenti: Perché dare un senso particolare a tale avvenimento? Non è piuttosto il caso a ordinare tutto, le leggi naturali come gli obblighi sociali? Perché prendere le elucubrazioni del nostro spirito come "messaggi di Dio"? Uno psicologo potrebbe spiegare meglio i diversi motivi delle nostre reazioni. Il nostro io percepisce un rischio, e rifiuta, per pigrizia o per autodifesa. Peggio: la nostra vita prende allora una cattiva direzione. Gesù viene nella sua città natale. L'interesse che suscita aumenta sempre di più. Il suo insegnamento suscita meraviglia. Da lui emana una saggezza indicibile. Ma molto presto l'attrattiva che egli esercita si altera: La gente è stupita: "Dove gli vengono queste cose? Non è costui il carpentiere?", rampollo di una famiglia ordinaria? E trasmetterebbe una nuova dottrina? Annuncerebbe una esigenza? Era certamente in gioco l'invidia. E soprattutto il "buon senso". È per questa ragione che i contemporanei di Gesù rifiutano di riconoscere l'azione di Dio nell'avvenimento. E non è tutto: deformano l'evento di Cristo e lo trasformano in "scandalo", in una forza del male che spinge al peccato. Tale interpretazione "tenebrosa" finisce per rassicurarli, dopo una simile provocazione.

Ecco una tranquillità pagata molto cara! La fede in Dio e la redenzione in Gesù Cristo diventano inaccessibili. Invece, gli abitanti di Nazaret avrebbero dovuto rischiare di abbandonarsi. Soltanto colui che ha una relazione di intimità con il Redentore sarà salvato. Colui che si è blindato nell'autoconservazione rimane chiuso alla salvezza. E sospettare con cattiveria che l'attrazione di Cristo sia una tentazione contro Dio in realtà non fa che rassicurare il suo egoismo, per quanto "ragionevoli" possano apparire i suoi argomenti.

Prima lettura

Ez 2,2-5

Sono una genia di ribelli, sapranno almeno che un profeta si trova in mezzo a loro.

In quei giorni, uno spirito entrò in me, mi fece alzare in piedi e io ascoltai colui che mi parlava. Mi disse: «Figlio dell'uomo, io ti mando ai figli d'Israele, a una razza di ribelli, che si sono rivoltati contro di me. Essi e i loro padri si sono sollevati contro di me fino ad oggi. Quelli ai quali ti mando sono figli testardi e dal cuore indurito. Tu dirai loro: "Dice il Signore Dio". Ascoltino o non ascoltino – dal momento che sono una genia di ribelli –, sapranno almeno che un profeta si trova in mezzo a loro».

Parola di Dio.

Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Salmo Responsoriale (Sal.122)

R I nostri occhi sono rivolti al Signore.

A te alzo i miei occhi,
a te che siedi nei cieli.

Ecco, come gli occhi dei servi
alla mano dei loro padroni. **R**

Come gli occhi di una schiava
alla mano della sua padrona,
così i nostri occhi al Signore nostro Dio,
finché abbia pietà di noi. **R**

Pietà di noi, Signore, pietà di noi,
siamo già troppo sazi di disprezzo,
troppo sazi noi siamo dello scherno dei gaudenti,
del disprezzo dei superbi. **R**

Seconda lettera 2Cor 12,7-10

Mi vanterò delle mie debolezze, perché dimori in me la potenza di Cristo.

Fratelli, affinché io non monti in superbia, è stata data alla mia carne una spina, un inviato di Satana per percuotermi, perché io non monti in superbia. A causa di questo per tre volte ho pregato il Signore che l'allontanasse da me. Ed egli mi ha detto: «Ti basta la mia grazia; la forza infatti si manifesta pienamente nella debolezza».

Mi vanterò quindi ben volentieri delle mie debolezze, perché dimori in me la potenza di Cristo. Perciò mi compiaccio nelle mie debolezze, negli oltraggi, nelle difficoltà, nelle persecuzioni, nelle angosce sofferte per Cristo: infatti quando sono debole, è allora che sono forte.

Parola di Dio Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Canto al Vangelo (Cf Lc 4,18)

Alleluia, alleluia. Lo Spirito del Signore è sopra di me: mi ha mandato a portare ai poveri il lieto annuncio. ***Alleluia***

† Dal Vangelo (Mc 6, 1-6)

Un profeta non è disprezzato se non nella sua patria.

In quel tempo, Gesù venne nella sua patria e i suoi discepoli lo seguirono.

Giunto il sabato, si mise a insegnare nella sinagoga. E molti, ascoltando, rimanevano stupiti e dicevano: «Da dove gli vengono queste cose? E che sapienza è quella che gli è stata data? E i prodigi come quelli compiuti dalle sue mani? Non è costui il falegname, il figlio di Maria, il fratello di Giacomo, di Ioses, di Giuda e di Simone? E le sue sorelle, non stanno qui da noi?». Ed era per loro motivo di scandalo.

Ma Gesù disse loro: «Un profeta non è disprezzato se non nella sua patria, tra i suoi parenti e in casa sua». E lì non poteva compiere nessun prodigio, ma solo impose le mani a pochi malati e li guarì. E si meravigliava della loro incredulità.

Gesù percorreva i villaggi d'intorno, insegnando.

Parola del Signore. Lode a te, Signore Gesù Cristo

Writings by the Fathers of the Church

From a sermon by Saint Augustine **A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit**

I acknowledge my transgression, says David. If I admit my fault, then you will pardon it. Let us never assume that if we live good lives we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon. But men are hopeless creatures, and the less they concentrate on their own sins, the more interested they become in the sins of others. They seek to criticise, not to correct. Unable to excuse themselves, they are ready to accuse others. This was not the way that David showed us how to pray and make amends to God, when he said: *I acknowledge my transgression, and my sin is ever before me*. He did not concentrate on others' sins; he turned his thoughts on himself. He did not merely stroke the surface, but he plunged inside and went deep down within himself. He did not spare himself, and therefore was not impudent in asking to be spared.

Do you want God to be appeased? Learn what you are to do that God may be pleased with you. Consider the psalm again: *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight*. Are you then to be without sacrifice? Are you to offer nothing? Will you please God without an offering? Consider what you read in the same psalm: *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight*. But continue to listen, and say with David: *A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart*. Cast aside your former offerings, for

now you have found out what you are to offer. In the days of your fathers you would have made offerings of cattle – these were the sacrifices. *If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it*. These then, Lord, you do not want, and yet you do want sacrifice.

You will take no delight in burnt offerings, David says. If you will not take delight in burnt offerings, will you remain without sacrifice? Not at all. *A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart*.

You now have the offering you are to make. No need to examine the herd, no need to outfit ships and travel to the most remote provinces in search of incense. Search within your heart for what is pleasing to God. Your heart must be crushed. Are you afraid that it might perish so? You have the reply: *Create a clean heart in me, O God*. For a clean heart to be created, the unclean one must be crushed.

We should be displeased with ourselves when we commit sin, for sin is displeasing to God. Sinful though we are, let us at least be like God in this, that we are displeased at what displeases him. In some measure then you will be in harmony with God's will, because you find displeasing in yourself what is abhorrent to your Creator.

Reflection on Gospel Mark 6 :1-6

Living the Gospel – Acknowledging the close at hand

Today's gospel reminds us that we can fail to see the value of those with whom we are very familiar. Although we proclaim that we seek the face of Christ in the face of those we meet it may not at times occur to us to look on our family and close friends in the same way. It may seem unlikely that God might come to us in the guise of a family member. Perhaps next time we are irritated by a brother or sister or the overly protective actions of a parent we should remind ourselves that we are looking into the face of God.

Scriptural context – Lack of faith

The final sentence of today's gospel tells us that Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith displayed by his home town. It is a feature of the Gospel of Mark that the accomplishment of miracles is associated with the faith of those involved. The section of the gospel that surrounds this passage deals with the lack of faith and understanding displayed by the disciples. The home town experience is a lesson to the disciples that in the absence of faith, the ministry of Jesus and those who follow him will falter. Only those who truly believe can participate in this ministry and share in the miraculous works of Jesus.

Have you thought? Brothers of Jesus

The reference to the brothers of Jesus has caused a lot of controversy in the past and continues to do so. One opinion, now regarded as heresy, was that these brothers were the younger children of Mary and Joseph. Another argument, grounded in the apocryphal gospels of Peter and James, maintains that they were Joseph's sons by an earlier marriage. The view generally held is that they were actually cousins of Jesus. The problem appears to arise because of a problem in translation from one language to another. The original Aramaic word was translated into a Greek word for brothers, or brethren.

The three main characters in this week's readings suffer rejection and humiliation. Their pain is summarised in the Psalm: "Indeed, all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain."

Sometimes, following God means being a witness to people who do not respect us or our faith. As the prophet Ezekiel hears in the first reading, the task of the faithful disciple is to keep witnessing to our faith, "whether they listen or not".

In the second reading, St Paul explains how he perseveres when he is confronted with rejection and humiliation. Paul's second letter to the Church in Corinth was motivated by a vicious attack on his ministry and reputation. Some within the community, who styled themselves as 'superapostles', disparaged Paul and his teaching. Instead, they boasted about the incredible visions and secret knowledge they had received, which proved their superiority over Paul.

Instead of trying to compete with his rivals' boasting, Paul brags about his own weaknesses and failures. Paul does not go into detail about what he means by the "thorn in his flesh." Theories have included health difficulties, reoccurring temptations, or difficult people around him.

Struggles like these that seem to get in the way of us trying to live out his faith should be familiar to all of us. However, Paul explains that God sometimes allows these obstacles in our lives because our weaknesses make the grace and love of Jesus most evident.

Instead of succumbing to the temptation to boast about his accomplishments, Paul uses his weaknesses to constantly remind himself of his dependence on God's power.

Through his weaknesses, Paul learns about the self-sacrificial kind of service that God desires. As a result, God's presence and activity in Paul's life are even more present because of the weakness that appears on the surface. Paul is a better witness of God's power because he demonstrates with his life what Christ can do with any person in any situation.

Jesus Himself embraces this way of living in

today's gospel. Previous chapters of Mark's Gospel make Jesus seem unstoppable. Disease, demons and even death all give way before Him. However, Jesus' mission appears to have stalled when He does not overcome Nazareth's lack of faith.

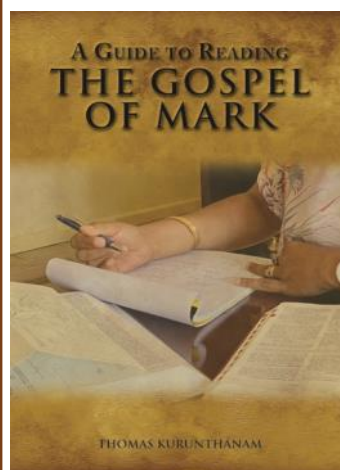
Perhaps Jesus could have forcefully displayed His power when He returned to Nazareth and broken down the barriers of unbelief. But what is a faith in God that is based on overpowering, dominating, and controlling? It would eliminate the opportunity for people to encounter God's love and mercy and for the spiritual change towards selfless love that God most desires.

Jesus most clearly proves that he is from God in his acceptance of suffering. His rejection by those closest to Him is another step towards the cross, where he will demonstrate to the world and all history what God's love truly means.

Our weaknesses can invite us to deepen our loving relationship with God and invite others to encounter Jesus. Let us always.

Joseph Doyle

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The Year of Mark

Gospel Readings (Lectionary) at Sunday Masses are organised in a three-year cycle.

Commencing with the First Sunday of Advent 2023 to the Feast of Christ the King this year is called Year B or The Year of Mark.

A guide to reading the Gospel of Mark is written by Fr Thomas to help understand the Gospel message better. Copies of this new book is available in the piety stall for purchase. Price \$20 only.

Recently Deceased: Maria Marino, Gianni Femia, Giuseppe Talarico, Carmelo Sultana, Patrick Lee.

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary: Joseph Natoli, Luigino De Domeneghi, Helen Bedirian & Elisabeth Papalia, Salvatore Antonio Giarratano, Luigino De Domeneghi, Lucy The, Giuseppa Vallelonga, Pasquale Ramirra, Maria Concetta, Rosario Aversa, Giuseppe Aversa, E Lucia Coruzzi, E K Minio, Pietro Giannone, Michael & Mario Carlucci, Joe Di Marti, Rosario Daidone, Pietro & Anna Giarratano,

Rest in Peace: Lattari & Avesa Family, Joe Di Marti, Prino Vaccher, Francesco Giannini, Conte Family, Gaetano & Giovanna Cusumano, Conte Family, Ruwah family, Santo Talarico, Domenica Di Gregorio,

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community: Sam Taufa'ao, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoursy, Mary Finios, Rose Uthappa, Glen Dixon, Venu Uthappa, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc, Giancarlo Buda, Mario Bianco.

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657

Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intentions

July: For Pastoral Care of the Sick

The Holy Father asks "for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to give strength from the Lord to those who receive it and their loved ones, becoming a visible sign of compassion and hope for everyone."

August: For Political Leaders

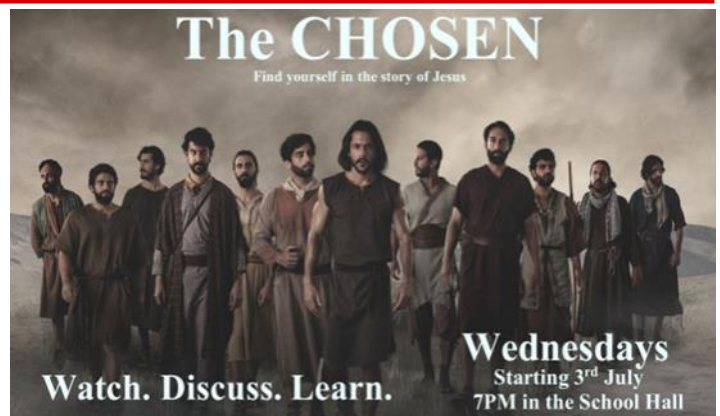
That political leaders may serve their people, work for comprehensive human development and the common good, attending to those who have lost their jobs and prioritizing the poorest."

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS

Many thanks to all who have donated used stamps to support the work of missionaries. Funds are raised through the sale of the stamps which we take to the Sisters of St Joseph at Croydon for further processing.

According to their website there are currently over 600 sisters ministering throughout Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Peru, Timor-Leste and Brazil in a variety of works:

Anyone wishing to support their work can leave stamps at our Piety Store before or after weekend Masses.



Invitation to join us for The Chosen,

a TV series, in the school hall, each Wednesday night during July, from 7pm - 8pm.

The Chosen is a series about the life of Jesus, uniquely told through the eyes of those around Him.

Open to anyone who is interested in Jesus, please invite someone to come along with you.

This is a free event.
Light refreshments will be provided.

See you there!

Pastoral Associate Discontinuing

Alf Tornatore had been the Pastoral Associate since 30 April 2024. He has finished off in this role on Friday, 5 July. I would like to thank him for his service for the last two months.

Preparations for the First Holy Communion is the next Sacramental Program this year. To help with the Parish based Sacramental Program we need a coordinator, and I will be happy to hear from anyone interested to apply for the job or volunteer.

A Job description will be provided on request.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.