

Ministry Roster.

This Week: 24th Sunday in Ord Time Yr B, (15/9.) 25th Sunday Yr B, 22/(9.)

Ministry	Vigil	8:30AM.	Vigil	8:30 AM.
<u>Acolyte.</u>	R Kemmis.	G Verhoeven	R Kemmis.	C Rannaste.
<u>Commentator.</u>	T Burgheim.	L Blahut.	J McInerney.	S Sheean.
<u>Reader.</u>	S Sheean.	Cathy V G.	K Mahony/C Au.	M Kundukulam.
<u>Flowers.</u>	K Powell.		J Gannon.	
<u>Cleaning.</u>	T Griffiths & G Hitchen.		L Blahut & M Kundukulam.	

If you are unable to carry out your ministry please organise a replacement or call Richard on the Parish phone number listed on the first page of this bulletin before COB Fridays(5:00PM).

**Positions Vacant:**

- Development Manager – Property Services, Diocese of Parramatta.
- Parish Secretary – Holy Name of Mary Parish, Rydalmere.  
Lead Facilitator of Diocesan Plan Implementation – Diocese of Parramatta –  
**Applications close 25 September.**

**THE CALL TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR IN THE SICK AND THE DYING.**

The Diocese of Parramatta Healthcare Ministries Formation Community is founded on the call of Jesus to love one’s neighbour in the sick and the dying. Within the community are Catholics involved in the Pastoral Care of the Sick, Aged Care, Lay Chaplains as well as Healthcare Professionals. We invite all students interested in pursuing a career in Professional care of the sick and the dying to a Formation session:

**21/9/2024 St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood  
from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by lunch.**

At this session, students will hear from professionals involved in the care of the sick and the dying. They will also have the opportunity to meet experienced professionals in their proposed field of study at university.

*Creative Mondays are back. Next meeting Monday Oct 14 , 10.30 - 2.30 in the Santa Maria Hall. Following dates November 11.*

*Enquiries to Sr Veronica 0419 532 303.*



*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](mailto:lawson@parracatholic.org) Parish Website: [www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au)

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 0418 461 316.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 10.00 am - 3.30 pm.

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

**WEEKDAY MASSES : Week day Masses are cancelled.**

Baptisms: First & Third Saturdays at 11:00 AM. Weddings: Call the office & six months notice.

Funerals: Call the office. **BENEDICTION: First Fridays 7:00 PM.**

**In today's readings,** Isaiah praises Yahweh for granting him the tongue of a disciple, while Peter uses this same gift to declare Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ. Contemplating Peter’s profound proclamation, we are called to reflect on our own knowledge, relationship, and discipleship with Christ. Such understanding is vital because, by knowing Christ more deeply—“You are the Christ”—we come to know ourselves more fully—“You are Cephas, and upon this rock, I will build my church.” As Saint Ignatius of Loyola teaches, it is our knowledge of Christ that propels us to love Him, which in turn inspires us to follow Him. Following Peter’s example and St. Ignatius's inspiration, therefore, the grace we seek today is, “To know Christ intimately so that I may love Him ardently and follow Him closely.”

As scripture attests, Peter's understanding of Jesus evolves into a profound relationship marked by both divine grace and human frailty. Despite having perfectly answered Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?”, we see Peter rebuked by Jesus for protesting His impending suffering and death: “Get behind me, Satan! You are thinking not as God thinks, but as human beings do.” We see Peter promising Jesus that he would not abandon Him in His suffering, yet he later denies Him three times after His arrest. Peter runs fearlessly to see the empty tomb but then waits in fear in the Upper Room until the Risen Christ appears. Upon seeing the risen Lord walking on water, Peter jumps out of the boat (forgetting his lack of proper clothing), but soon begins to sink due to self-doubt. He is frustrated when repeatedly asked by the Risen Christ, “Do you love me?” but ultimately receives the responsibility to shepherd the Church: “Take care of my sheep....”

Despite these moments of divine grace and human weakness, Peter's deepening relationship with Christ empowers him to follow closely and be faithful to His call: “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Peter remains true to this call even after Christ’s ascension, boldly proclaiming Him to the Jews and ultimately following Him to the point of his own unorthodox death on a cross.

Peter, with both divine guidance and human vulnerability at work within him, stands as a model for our own relationship with Christ. In light of this, we must ask ourselves today:

What is my personal relationship with the person of Christ today?

What have I learned about myself through my relationship with Christ?

How do I answer Jesus’s question to me today, “Who do you say I am?”

What steps can I take today to deepen my knowledge of Christ, so that I may love Him more ardently and follow Him more closely in the days .

Fernado Rashimi S. J.



**Recently Deceased:** Eamonn Spellman.  
**Anniversaries:**

**Sick:** P Doherty, Tony Gilmour, Rob Nickl, Lan Franco Matteucci, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Kees Van Der Donk, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennett 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**

*Isaiah 50:5-9a*

The suffering servant of Yahweh is assured of God’s help.

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalms 116:1-2,3-4,5-6,8-9*

A prayer of praise to God for his salvation

**Second Reading**

*James 2:14-18*

James teaches that faith must be demonstrated in one’s works.

**Gospel Reading**

*Mark 8:27-35*

Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus teaches that those who would follow him must take up his or her cross.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today’s reading is the turning point in Mark’s Gospel. In the presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Mark, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus’ disciples, have not yet realized his identity. In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a field report by asking what others say about him. He then turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

The word *Christ* is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means “the anointed one.” At the time of Jesus, the image of the Messiah was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Jesus does not appear to have used this term for himself. As we see in today’s reading, Jesus refers to himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the Book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that the phrase Son of Man is best understood to mean “human being.”

Now that the disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he will be rejected, must suffer and die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ’s disciple is to follow in the way of the cross.

We can easily miss the fear that Jesus’ words must have evoked in his disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote. The path that Jesus was inviting his disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY**

**SCHOOL**

**7 Somers Street, Lawson.**

**Phone: 4753 2200. Email:**

[oln@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:oln@parra.catholic.edu.au)



**SANTA MARIA  
CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Available for meetings,  
functions and  
conferences. Phone  
Sr Veronica on 4759 1116.

**From the Finance Committee.**

For the year ended 30 June 2024 the parish posted a loss of approximately \$12K net of repairs & maintenance expenses which were required for the presbytery and office insurance claim.

We have received funds from our insurer for the rebuild of the parish office and are **still** awaiting BMCC for DA approval.

The operation of the parish relies 100% on the generosity of the parishioners and the parish is grateful for all donations. A reminder that the most economical way to support the parish is via direct credit into the Parish Bank Account.

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity

BSB: 062-950

Account Number: 00000164

Tom Boyd.

Chairman Finance Committee.



**Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal supporting our retired priests .**

This Father’s Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests’ lifelong gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy’s health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.

**Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church.**

On Saturday 10 August, the Diocese of Parramatta launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan for a Synodal Church. Our pastoral plan represents the culmination of our Synod journey, where we have come together to listen, discern, and envision a path forward for our diocese over the past 16 months. To download a copy of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, visit [parracatholic.org/synodality](http://parracatholic.org/synodality).

**MET Worship Ministry to the Sick and Dying Formation: 19 October.**

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Are you currently taking Communion to the Sick and Dying in the Diocese of Parramatta? If so, please join the Office for Worship for a day of ongoing formation to further your knowledge and understanding of this important topic. Saturday 19 October from 9.30am - 2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Morning tea and Lunch provided. For more information and to register before 14 October, please contact Hannah on [hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org](mailto:hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org) or 0488 000 211 or visit <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship>