

Second Sunday in Ordinary time—Year A

15th Jan 2017

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 49: 3. 5-6

Responsorial Psalm: Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 1-3

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: According to John 1: 29-34

Communion Antiphon: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

Saints of the Week

St Anthony (Tues 17/1)
St Fabian, & St Sebastian (Fri 20/1) St Agnes (Sat 21/1)

St Christopher's Parish Holsworthy

We are a community striving for growth, unity, equality, love and commitment

Administrator: Rev. Andrew James
Assistant Priest: Rev Thomas Alukka Varghese
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Pastoral Support Sr. Helen Madden *rsj*
Secretary: Mrs. Anne Bennell
Parish Office Hours Mon 10.00am—3.00pm
Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm
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St Christopher's Catholic School—*Through faith and love we serve*

Principal: Mr. Tony Boyd
School Tel: (02) 9825 3251
School Mail: 195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

Parish news continued...

As the New Year begins to unfold, the Parish, once again, is in the throes of preparing Rosters for the Liturgy as well as for other Parish activities. These, of course, cannot be organised without the generous response from all of you. Hence, do you see yourself called to volunteer to any of the following functions:



- # As a Commentator
- # As a Proclaimer of the Word of God
- # As a Catechist or Helper
- # As a Leader of Children's Liturgy
(Saturday - 5.30pm - Vigil Mass)
- # As a Cleaner in maintaining care of the Church
- # As a Helper with the Working Bees

Parishioners, your contribution to the Life of the Parish in any of these areas would be greatly appreciated and you are thanked in anticipation for your generosity.

Please contact the Parish Office for further information 9825 1679.

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Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

Fr. Greg Sunter

Fr. Andrew will be Administrator of both St Christopher's Holsworthy & St Joseph's Moorebank Parishes, following the retirement of Fr. Graham McIntyre. This will continue until a replacement is named for Fr. McIntyre at Moorebank.

Sydney Archdiocese's notices:

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

St Mary's Cathedral will open its doors to celebrate Australia Day 2017 with: **A special Mass** to pray for God's blessings on all Australian people at 9.00am; **Organ Recitals and Bell Ringing** in the ambient surrounds of the Cathedral. **Organ Recitals** at 11.30am, 1.00pm, 2.00pm and 3.00pm. **Bell Ringing** at 9.50am and 12.00pm; **Guided History Tours** of the Cathedral or **Cathedral Crypt**: Tour conducted at 10.00am, 10.30am, 11.00am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. Everyone Welcome. **All Tours and Recitals Free.**

CATHOLICCARE: SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF SYDNEY FOR 75 YEARS.

CatholicCare services assist people to live and thrive at every age. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. We can assist you to navigate the new world of the NDIS and My Aged Care. To find out more call **13 18 19**, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS (LTTN) is an Easter Youth Pilgrimage event held biannually for Catholics ages 16+. Camp under the open skies with a thousand other young people and celebrate the Easter Triduum with us over 13-16 April 2017! Visit www.lttn.org.au for more information and register today. Contact: info@ltnn.org.au.

MOUNT ST BENEDICT CENTRE. A ministry of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. The 2017 program is attached or visit www.goodsams.org.au for more information.

St Christopher's Parish news:

The next **Catechist Meeting** will be **Monday 6th February at 10am** in the parish hall. If you would like to support this Ministry please contact the parish office 9825 1679 for further details, or come along to this meeting.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 14th Jan 5.30pm.....Terry Touzell (RIP)
Sunday 15th Jan 8.00amMary Gilchrist (RIP)
Sunday 15th Jan 9.30am.....Parish Intentions
Monday 16th Jan 9.15am.....Vocations
Tuesday 17th Jan 9.15am.....David Brady (RIP)
Wednesday 18th Jan**No Mass**
Thursday 19th Jan 9.15amVocations
Friday 20th Jan 9.15am.....Thanksgiving Mass
Saturday 21st Jan**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Wednesday Mass at 7.00pm
Thursday Mass at 7.00pm followed by Adoration (in English)
Friday Mass at 7.00pm **except on the First Friday of the Month**
Saturday Mass at 9.30am
Every Sunday Mass at 11.30am **on the Third Sunday of the Month** this will be conducted in the School Hall.

The Samoan Community celebrates a **Sunday Mass** in the Church on the **Third Sunday of the Month at 11.30am.**

Parish Collections

25/12/2016 First \$1,888.95 **Second:** \$1,048.50

Christmas Offerings \$2,657.40

1/1/2017 First: \$961.20 **Second:** \$936.70

8/1/2017 First: \$769.50 **Second:** \$837.25

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:

Due to recent NSW State Government legislative changes that came into effect from 1st January 2017 it will not be possible to provide tax deductibility on planned giving donations made after 31 December 2016. A tax deductible receipt will however be provided for any contributions made for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.

A **Thank you** to all those who contributed to Mary MacKillop International by sending in their used stamps. During 2016, the amount raised from the selling of those stamps was \$62,000.00. From 2001 till now the total raised is \$186,000.00. It is through their efforts that the legacy of St Mary MacKillop continues in Peru today. Used Stamps can be left in the church foyer in an envelope for



We Pray For The Sick : Gregory Sweeney, Cyril Ferriere & Peter Sidgreaves.

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: David Brady

