

Third Sunday in Ordinary time—Year A

22nd Jan 2017

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song, to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 8: 23-5:3

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 11-13, 17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: According to Matthew 4: 12-23

Communion Antiphon: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Saints of the Week

St Francis de Sales (Tues 24/1)

The Conversion of St Paul (Wed 25/1) Australia Day (Thurs 25/1)

Sts Timothy and Titus and St Angela Merici (Fri 27/1)

St Thomas Aquinas (Sat 28/1)

MASS & ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every First Friday of the month

Friday 3rd February 2017 starts at 7.00pm until 11.00pm

Program name : Adonai

Date: every first Friday

Time: 7.30 pm to 10 pm. (Right after the Holy Mass)

Lead by: Jesus Youth Sydney

Program : confession, praise n worship, meditation of word of God, silent adoration and intercession.

Participants: all are welcome but leading by youth.

Language : English



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

Secretary:

Mrs. Anne Bennell

Parish Office Hours

Mon 10.00am—3.00pm

Tues & Thurs 9.00am—3.00pm

Address:

205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

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St Christopher's Catholic School—Through faith and love we serve

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Mr. Tony Boyd

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(02) 9825 3251

School Mail:

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Third Sunday in Ordinary time Year A 22/1/17

The prophet describes reversals of the fortunes of Israel. First the former times of hardship are contrasted with the present experience of salvation. The lands that had been lost were eventually returned to Israel, the hardships that accompanied defeat and occupation were lifted, and the darkness was dispelled. The words of the psalmist are next directed toward God. Salvation has embraced the people and through it they are granted a threefold joy. This joy is compared to the excitement of harvest time, to the headiness experienced when one has been victorious in battle, and to the relief experienced when freed from the yoke of military servitude, the pole of national discipline, and the rod of social oppression.



The psalm response is a prayer of profound confidence in God. In it God is characterised by means of three metaphors: light; salvation; and refuge. Darkness is not only a danger to safety, but it symbolises evil. Light dispels any kind of danger. Salvation, or deliverance, is granted out of the beneficence of another; one did not save oneself. God is the saviour. Finally, a refuge is a place of safety to which one in danger could flee for protection. All three metaphors characterise God as one holding unparalleled power and exercising this power on behalf of the psalmist, who was not only vulnerable but actually somehow besieged. Every aspect of this psalm response proclaims trust in God.

There seems to have been much pettiness and bickering in Corinth. Natural differences degenerated into rivalry. If left unchecked this rivalry could develop into serious divisions. As representative of Christ, Paul addresses the situation. His exhortation is threefold: agreement in matters of faith; unity, not schism; oneness in mind and purpose. Groups within the community claimed allegiance to various individuals.

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To this Paul poses rhetorical questions, which elicit only negative answers. No! Christ cannot be divided. No! Paul was not crucified for their salvation. No! They were not baptised in the name of Paul.

He insists that neither the teachings nor the personal characteristics of a religious leader can be allowed to rival their allegiance to Christ. The announcement of the arrest of John the Baptist, which signalled the end of John's ministry and the beginning of Jesus' ministry, prompts Jesus to leave the vicinity and journey to Galilee. Although Jesus preached the same message as did the Baptist (Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [cf. Matt 3:2]), he did it in fulfilment of the prophecies rather than in anticipation of a future event. The first move he makes is to call some followers. These men were called; they did not initiate their own discipleship, as followers of rabbis normally did. The proclamation of the good news and the healing of the sick were believed to be signs of the advent of the age of fulfilment. © Dianne Bergant CSS

Parish Collections

15/1/2017 **First:** \$790.05 **Second:** \$1,063.65

St Christopher's Parish news:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Catherine Flavell who has been our Sacramental Coordinator for a number of years here at St Christopher's. Catherine has resigned from this position and will be greatly missed by parishioners, school and parish staff. We wish Catherine good luck and God's blessing in whatever field she may decide to pursue.

The next **Catechist Meeting** will be **Monday 6th February at 10am** in the parish hall. We have vacancies in the following state schools:
Hammondville PS—Kinder, Year 1 & Year 4 Holsworthy PS—Kinder
Wattle Grove PS—Year 5 & Year 6. If you would like to support this Ministry please contact the parish office 9825 1679 for further details, or come along to this meeting.

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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 21st Jan 5.30pm.....Harry Kat (RIP)
 Sunday 22nd Jan 8.00amJames Evans (RIP)
 Sunday 22nd Jan 9.30amParish Intentions
 Monday 23rd Jan 9.15am.....Vocations
 Tuesday 24th Jan 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory
 Wednesday 25th Jan 9.15am.....For the Sick
 Thursday 26th Jan 9.15amAustralia Day
 Friday 27th Jan 9.15am.....Thanksgiving Mass
 Saturday 28th 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.**

Fr. Andrew is the 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.

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 collection.



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.**

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

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Harry Kat & James Evans