

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time—Year A

12th February 2017

Entrance Antiphon: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name..

First Reading from the book of Sirach 15: 15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 2: 6-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you are revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: According to Matthew 5: 17-37

Communion Antiphon: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Saints of the Week

St Cyril & Methodius (Tues 14/2)



The Sisters of Charity Outreach is a community service organisation committed to providing assistance to families in need across New South Wales through the active participation of trained volunteers and staff. Outreach supports the vulnerable in our society, with an emphasis on women and families, offering services that are professional, flexible and responsive to emerging community need. We are seeking mature people to volunteer who have some time to spare to support the vulnerable in our community. There are flyers in the church foyer should you wish to know more. Or visit their website www.sistersofcharityoutreach.com.au

Retreat for Mature Catholic Women - "Food for Mind & Soul" - Feeling on the Fridge of the Church?

From Friday 10th to Sunday 12th March, 2016.

Retreat Led by: Andrea Dean. At: Mount Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa. Earlybird Registration: \$420, includes Course, Individual Sessions, Accommodation, linen and all meals.

Registration and further details at: www.andreadean.com.au or 0487 388 873.

The retreat program will invite reflection on personal faith stories, a healthy Catholic spirituality, a 'second half of life' spirituality and the various ways that women can nurture and develop their spirituality.

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
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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

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Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded. *Fr. Greg Sunter*

Parish Collections

5/2/2017 **First:** \$1,052.80 **Second:** \$1,067.70

St Christopher's Parish news:



CAKE STALL The Parish Fund Raising Committee are holding a Cake stall on the 25/26 February after the weekend Masses. With your support we can make this a great success. The baking ladies are in need of donations of Self Raising Flour, sugar (brown & white), butter, eggs, dates, walnuts, crushed pineapple & Philadelphia cream cheese etc. Donations can be left in the church foyer no later than Thursday 23rd February 2017. We thank you.

LENTEN DAY GROUP 2017 Ash Wednesday commences on Wednesday 1st March 2017. We are inviting people to join us as we journey through Lent. This year we are using the Wollongong Diocese—HOPE Lenten Program. We will meet in the Parish Hall each Friday during Lent at 10.30am for an hour. The first session is on Friday 3rd March. Lenten books are \$8.00 each, should you wish to join this group, please leave your contact details on the sheet in the church foyer.



"St Christopher's is starting a **Children's Choir** to sing at the Vigil Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Parish children ages 5 to 14 are invited to join. The first practice will be from 4pm to 5pm on Saturday, 25th February in the Church. Contact Ray Villarica 0400 353 531 for details."



ASH WEDNESDAY will be celebrated on Wednesday 1st March with Mass at 9.15am & 7.00pm. Ashes will be distributed at both Masses.

CARITAS Australia

Project Compassion is only a few more weeks away! Beginning on **Wednesday March 1 (Ash Wednesday)** and running through the six weeks of Lent, Project Compassion raises both funds and community awareness about important global issues, empowering our neighbours across the world to build a brighter future. Our theme this year is **Love Your Neighbour**, with six inspiring stories from the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Australia, Vietnam and Fiji. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes will be in the church foyer from Sunday 26th February 2017.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11th Feb 5.30pm.....Rita Kolster (RIP)
Sunday 12th Feb 8.00amParish Intentions
Sunday 12th Feb 9.30am.....Alfonso Miranda & Rosa Flores De Miranda (RIP)
Monday 13th Feb 9.15am.....Edgar Baumann (RIP)
Tuesday 14th Feb 9.15am.....Vocations
Wednesday 15th Feb 9.15am.....For the Sick
Thursday 16th Feb 9.15amAustralian troupes serving overseas
Friday 17th Feb **9.00am.....School Mass** (school grounds)
Saturday 18th Feb**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.**

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND WITH THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FRIARS. 3-5 March 2017. Come for a chance to learn more about the inspiring and uplifting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This Live-in weekend is for young men (18-35). **Starts 7.30pm Friday** at 98 Catherine St, Leichhardt and **concludes with 6.00pm Mass on Sunday.** Cost is **FREE/optional donation.** There will be **Mass on Saturday and Sunday, Adoration, quiet prayer, talks, confession available, quiet time and the opportunity to get helpful advice.** So if you're discerning, come along! Contact Fr Thomas on vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au or **0432 362 052.** Retreatants **must register** as there are limited spaces available. More info at: www.capuchinfriars.org.au.

AGEING AND DYING WITH DIGNITY. These are a part of life. How do we manage the emotional, psychological, physical and spiritual questions about our own ageing and mortality and that of loved ones. What is available to us to assist in such difficult and confusing times? Hear professional palliative, pastoral and health carers All are welcome to this free event. St Joseph's Catholic Church Newtown. Saturday, **18 March 2017.** Time: 3-5 pm. Details: newtownfaith.blogspot.com.au.

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

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Rita Kolster, Edgar Baumann, Alfonso Miranda & Rosa Flores De Miranda