

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time—Year A

19th February 2017

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**First Reading from the book of Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18**

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 3: 16-23**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL: According to Matthew 5: 38-48**

**Communion Antiphon:** I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Saints of the Week**

St Peter Damian (Tues 21/2) The Chair of St Peter (Wed 22/2)  
St Polycarp (Thurs 23/2)

**ARCHDIOCESE NEWS:**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO 40 HOURS FOR VOCATIONS. 24 – 26 February 2017.**

Join us in prayer for an hour at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd as the Archdiocese of Sydney dedicates 40 Hours of Adoration to pray for vocations. *40 Hours* includes Mass, Confession, communal and personal prayer, and guided reflections before the Blessed Sacrament. If you would like to commit to an hour of adoration and get more information about the *40 Hours* weekend visit [www.vocationcentre.org.au](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au) or call us on (02) 9307 8424.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2017** Our Archbishop Anthony Fisher has declared that this year Confirmation for the Western Deanery area which includes Holsworthy Parish will be held on Sunday 3rd September at 2.00pm at St Mary's Cathedral. Due to the change, our parish has to alter the Sacramental Program to reflect the following:

**First Holy Communion** will be celebrated 17th June Vigil Mass & 18th June 9.30am & 2.00pm Masses.

**Confirmation 3/9/2017** at St Mary's Cathedral 2.00pm.

**Reconciliation** will be celebrated on Wednesday 22nd November at 7.00pm.

We are in urgent need of parishioners to volunteer to be a group leader especially in the First Holy Communion program. Ongoing support and training is offered. Please contact the parish office for more details, or visit the parish website for further information [www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au)



**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  
**All correspondence to:** PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875  
**Website:** [www.stchristophers.org.au](http://www.stchristophers.org.au)  
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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

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time Year A**  
**19th February 2017**



'Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.' Is Jesus advocating rather static fault-less-ness? Not very appealing! No, the Greek word is closer to the idea of a perfect wine – one that has matured and has reached its full potential. So, Our Lord is saying, 'Be a person who is everything you are capable of being.'

Our Lord gives a striking example of the challenge. God does not withhold life-giving sun and rain from people because they are bad or dishonest, nor extinguish the life of human beings because they are evil, because they are enemies.

What are the implications for Church teaching on capital punishment or warfare? Note that Jesus' command: 'You must be ...' is directed to *You* in the plural. It is communal, social. The Church community must listen. Is the Holy Spirit moving us in a direction not experienced since its first three centuries?

We could pause for a moment to pray on behalf of those who want to do us harm, the better to hear: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'

*Fr. Michael Tate*

## Parish Collections

12/2/2017 **First:** \$843.25 **Second:** \$1,021.00

### St Christopher's Parish news:



**CAKE STALL** The Parish Fund Raising Committee are holding a Cake stall next weekend 24/25 Feb after the 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.



"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 next Saturday, 25th February in the Church. There are flyers in the church foyer for more details or Contact Ray Villarica 0400 353 531 for details."

**Working Bee:** The next working bee is scheduled for next **SATURDAY 25th February** from 1pm until 4pm.. If you can spare just an hour or two to help the small group of dedicated parishioners who help maintain the Church grounds, it would be much appreciated. There is a clip board in the Church Foyer where you can leave your details.

**LENTEN DAY GROUP 2017 Ash 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.

**200 Club (cash raffle)** The Fundraising Committee has agreed to run a 200 Club. How it works is that there are 200 tickets sold at \$20 each.

Each week for four weeks, 5 tickets are drawn and the winners each receive \$20 (money back). Tickets go back into the barrel for the draw each week so you could effectively win more than once. At the end of the 4 weeks there is a draw for \$1,000.

The series of draws won't run until all tickets are sold. The Fundraising Committee will be selling tickets after each of the Masses this weekend. All funds raised go towards the upkeep of the church.



## Mass Intentions

Saturday 18th Feb 5.30pm..... Wayne Sweeney (RIP)  
Sunday 19th Feb 8.00am ..... Parish Intentions  
Sunday 19th Feb 9.30am ..... Norma Mezentsef (RIP)  
Monday 20th Feb 9.15am..... Souls in Purgatory  
Tuesday 21st Feb 9.15am..... Vocations  
Wednesday 22nd Feb 9.15am..... For the Sick  
Thursday 23rd Feb 9.15am ..... Joan Bruszewski (RIP)  
Friday 24th Feb 9.15am ..... Australian troops serving overseas  
Saturday 25th Feb ..... **Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**



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

### 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.**

**JESUS YOUTH HOURS OF GRACE—(24 HOURS OF ADORATION )** Commencing at 6.00pm on Saturday 4th March and finish at 6.00pm Sunday 5th March 2017. (Holy Adoration will be moved at the time of Holy Mass) starting from 6.00pm 6th May and finish 6.00pm on Sunday 7th May 2017

Both events are starting in first Saturday and first Sunday.

I have two announcements to make at the weekend Masses and next week as well if not longer. One for the Fundraising Committee and the other relating to my "choir".

**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 next weekend for collection.

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Wayne Sweeney, Norma Mezentsef & Joan Bruszewski