

Third Sunday of Lent

19th March 2017

Entrance Antiphon: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading from the book of Exodus 17: 3-7

Responsorial Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: According to John 4: 5-42

Communion Antiphon: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Saints of the week

The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (Sat 25/3)

A MASS & BLESSING FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM: In celebration of Autism Awareness Month and to honour and pray for all those in our community with autism, the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney invites you to the annual Mass and Blessing for People with Autism, to be celebrated by Bishop Anthony Randazzo. WHERE: St Benedict's Church, Broadway. WHEN: **Sunday 2nd April 2017**, 2:00pm. For inquiries or to RSVP by Tuesday 28th March please contact LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or phone (02) 9307 8404.

CATHOLICARE. For Gladys, volunteering with CatholicCare brings her immense satisfaction whilst bringing joy to the ageing clients she visits weekly. 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. To find out more call **13 18 19**, email connect@catholiccare.org or visit www.catholiccare.org

CatholicCare

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To find out more, contact Customer Service Team: 131819

Visit us on the web at www.catholiccare.org

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

205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

All correspondence to:

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Website:

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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



Third Sunday of Lent— Year A 19th March 2017

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

Fr. Greg Sunter

Parish Collections

12/3/2017 **First:** \$987.30 **Second:** \$1,095.75



St Christopher's Parish news:

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are held in the Church on Friday evening's at 7pm during Lent.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION enrolments for this Sacrament can be downloaded from the parish website www.stchristophers.org.au For parents who may not have a printer there are forms in the church foyer. Completed enrolment forms can either be handed into the parish office (Mon, Tues & Thurs) alternatively in the box marked enrolment forms in the church foyer.

200 Club (cash raffle) The Fundraising Committee is organising to run a 200 Club. We have sold over 150 tickets, and we only need the remaining numbers to sell then we can commence the raffle. The Fundraising Committee will be selling tickets after each of the Masses this weekend. All funds raised go towards the upkeep of the church.



PARISH FUNDRAISING DATES FOR 2017

March - Sale of "200 Club tickets"	April—Draw of "200 Club tickets"
May— Cake Stall (Date to be confirmed)	July 23rd BINGO
August—Sale of Christmas Raffle tickets	September 16th PARISH FETE
December 9th—Draw Christmas Raffle	

The Craft Stall always welcomes 'homemade items' knitted scarves, tea towels, baby items etc to sell. **The Garden Stall** is always in need of plants, while it is warm why not propagate some plants now and they will be established by Spring. Please keep these dates in your diary.

CATEHCISTS & HELPERS: We are in urgent need of parishioners to volunteer to become a Catechist either as a teacher or a helper. Please consider this most special Ministry less than an hour a week during school term, Tuesday at Hammondville School 9am (Kinder & Year 4) or Wednesday at Wattle Grove school (Year 6 at 10.30am). Training and ongoing support is given. Please speak with Fr after Mass or contact the Parish Office on 9825 1679



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S YOUTH GROUP (11-18 years old)
Thank you to all the youth who participated in our Youth Night on Saturday, 11th March. We all had a great time!

Please be advised that the **next Youth event will be on Sunday, 26 March, 2017, 4-6pm.** Please RSVP to Marie at marie.teriana@gmail.com with names of Youth attending.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 18th March 5.30pm.....Regina Ramajo Escalante (RIP)
Sunday 19th March 8.00amSantiago Quinon Sr, Jesus Quinon (RIP)
Sunday 19th March 9.30am.....Parish Intentions
Monday 20th March 9.15am.....Vocations
Tuesday 21st March 9.15am.....Melville Kane (RIP)
Wednesday 22nd March 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 23rd March 9.15am**NO Mass****Clergy Conference**
Friday 24th March 9.15amAustralian troupes serving overseas
Saturday 25th March**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 and during Lent Mass will be at 7.45pm due to Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm**
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 2020

Parish 2020, the new pastoral project launched last year, is a journey of renewal in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. It is about all of us working together to explore and discern God's will for our Archdiocese. From January to March 2017, the Archbishop wishes to hear the views and opinions of as many people as possible across the Archdiocese on ways of renewing and strengthening our Parishes and communities for our future. You are invited to complete an online survey by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2V7XL9X>

*For those unfamiliar with technology, a paper version of the same survey is available at the back of the Church. **Completed surveys can be placed in the (Communion enrolment forms box) in the church foyer***

For further information, presentations, resources and updates please visit <http://www.sydneycatholic.org/parishes/parish2020/>.

Information Contact: Parish 2020 Working Group – parish2020@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5233



The next **Working Bee** will be held on **Saturday 1st April 1-4pm** please leave your contact details on the form provided.

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere & Ian Howe

Recently deceased: Regina Ramajo Escalante & Bevan Lobb

Anniversaries: Santiago Quinon Sr, Jesus Quinon, Melville Kane