

Fifth Sunday of Easter

14th May 2017

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading from the first letter of St Peter 2: 4-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord; no-one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia

GOSPEL: According to John 14: 1-12

Communion Antiphon: I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Saints of the Week

St John 1 pope, martyr (Thur18/5)
St Bernadine of Siena (Sat 20/5)

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



Archdiocese of Sydney—Safeguarding and Child Protection Officer.

This initiative began in November 2016 to provide support to the Parish Priest in bringing awareness of Safeguarding and Child Protection to parish staff, volunteers and the parish community. Anne Bennell, the parish secretary is our Safeguarding Officer for the parish.

The Archdiocese of Sydney has introduced a **'Code of Conduct for Working with Children and Young People'**. The Code is designed to help set our expectations for **all volunteers**- whether you are a church cleaner, youth minister or an Acolyte etc, the standards and expectations are the same for everyone working within the parish.

This document is for anyone working in parishes in either a paid or a volunteer position who works with children. The Safeguarding Office recommends that **ALL** parish staff and **Volunteers** are aware of it and read and sign the form.

In the coming weeks parishioners who volunteer in the following roles will be notified and asked to attend a training session for the **Safeguarding and Protection of Children:** Acolytes, Children's Liturgy Coordinators, Choir Master's Group Leaders for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist & Confirmation, parish Youth Group coordinator & their helpers.

Fr. Andrew James as (Administrator) is requesting that all volunteers take the Code of Conduct form home to read, sign and place it in the box in the church foyer at your earliest convenience.

Fifth Sunday of Easter— Year A

14th May 2017

The disciples are full of premonitions that their beloved leader was about to be cruelly done to death, leaving them abandoned. Yet he tells them: 'Let not your hearts be troubled.'

Why shouldn't their hearts, our hearts, be troubled by the disappearance of Our Lord's physical presence? The answer is because there is a purpose to his passage through death. It was to bring about a situation where our Risen Lord could share his life in ever more intimate fashion with his followers. How does this come about?

At every Mass, after the gifts are brought to the altar, I pour a little water into the chalice of wine, saying: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.'

What a powerful verb! By grace, we can participate in the Divine Life of the Risen Lord.

As the Greek saints of the early church used to say in very daring fashion: 'God became human so that humans might become God.'

We anticipate this at every Holy Communion when, as Pope John Paul II used to say: 'We digest, as it were, the secret of the Resurrection.'

We could pause for a moment after Communion to reverence the Divine Life dwelling in us, a truly Holy Communion! Alleluia!

Fr Michael Tate ©



*Happy Mothers Day to all our Mothers, Grandmothers,
Godmothers and nurturers*



Parish Collections

7/5/2017 **First:** \$ 1,169.75 **Second:** \$958.95

St Christopher's Parish news:

200 Club (Cash raffle) The Parish Fundraising Committee congratulates J. Gollon who won the \$1,000 major prize draw for the 200 Club Cash Raffle. Ms Gollon was one of the first to purchase a ticket and describes her win as a blessing. Thank you once again to all who were able to participate in the 200 Club this year. You have helped raise \$2,600 towards the maintenance and upkeep of our Church. We hope that you will choose to participate again next year!

Easter Water There is Holy Water in the church for parishioners. If you wish to have some, please bring a container.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Parishioners our candidates for this Sacrament will be attending Mass over the coming weeks. Next weekend we will be asking you to take a **Please Pray for Me card** at the end of Mass, which will be on the steps of the Altar. Please keep these children and their family in your prayers.

CAKE STALL The parish is holding a Cake stall on the 27/28 May after the weekend Masses. We are going to try something a little different this time with your support.



We are requesting that parishioner's bake a home made cake (not packet mix) labelling the type of cake that will be sold. Please bring your cake to the Mass you will be attending. If you don't like cooking or you do not have the time to bake we would request ingredients for the ladies to bake in the Presbytery for the cake stall.

We need donations of Sugar (brown & white), butter, eggs, dates, walnuts, copha, bananas, carrots, crushed pineapple and Philadelphia cream cheese. We have enough flour from the last cake stall. All donations can be left in the church foyer no later than Monday 22nd May 2017. Any ingredients that need refrigeration please call past the parish office on Monday 22nd May to drop them off.

CWF PASTORAL APPEAL: From everyone in our parish, we wish to thank you for supporting last weekend's Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Pastoral Appeal for the benefit of our agencies such CatholicCare, Ephpheta Centre, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Seminaries and Catholic Chaplaincies. Through you, they can continue their passion for making a positive contribution in people's lives. The Appeal raised \$957.85

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere

Recently deceased: Sydney Requin

Anniversaries: Eliata Ramalinga

Mass Intentions

Saturday 13th May 7.00pm.....Sydney Requin (RIP)
Sunday 14th May 8.00amParish Intentions
Sunday 14th May 9.30am.....Eliata Ramalinga (RIP)
Monday 15th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Tuesday 16th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Wednesday 17th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Thursday 18th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Friday 19th May 9.15am.....**Communion Service**
Saturday 20th May.....**Reconciliation : 4:30 PM // Vigil Mass :5:30PM**

Syro-Malabar Liturgies:

Fr Thomas being is on leave until the 9th June there will be No evening Masses on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday evenings, & Saturday morning Mass.

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.**

SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE NOTICES:

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S MENTORING LAUNCH – Saturday, 20 May 2017. You are invited to attend the launch of the new Australian Catholic Women's Mentoring Program on Saturday May 20, 2017 at Mary Mackillop Place, North Sydney. The new program, which is run through the National Office of Participation of Women, aims to grow the skills, confidence and networks of Australian Catholic women, increasing their capacity to use their gifts and talents for the Australian Church and Australian society. **Date:** Saturday May 20, 2017 **Time:** Mass at 5.30pm; Launch from 7pm in the Auditorium **Venue:** Mary Mackillop Place North Sydney: 7-11 Mount Street, North Sydney **Please RSVP your attendance at this FREE event:**

Email: coordinator.opw@catholic.org.au.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival This three day festival will be held in Sydney **7-9 December 2017.** The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for those aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day!

For more information, www.acyf.org.au.

Santa Sabina College invites families to join them for the Term 2 information tours. Simply register at <http://www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/visit-us/>

Visit the primary campus (co-ed P to 4) on **Friday 19 May from 9:15am to 11:15am**—59 The Boulevard, Strathfield NSW 2135

Visit middle and senior school (girls only) on **Thursday 25 May from 9:15am to 11:15am**—90 The Boulevard, Strathfield NSW 2135

For more information please contact the College Registrar on P: (02) 9745 7030 or E: enrolment@ssc.nsw.edu.au