

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 20th August 2017

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading from the prophet Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

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

GOSPEL: According to Matthew 15: 21-28

Communion Antiphon: With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Saints of the Week

St Pius X (Mon 21/8)

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Tues 22/8)

St Rose of Lima (Wed 23/8) St Bartholomew (Thurs 24/8)

St Louis and St Joseph Calasanz (Fri 25/8)

PARISH FETE 16/9/2017

This week we are appealing for volunteers to help on the day of the fete. It would be appreciated if you could nominate the time you are available on the sheet in the foyer. At least a further 20 more volunteers are needed.

There will be a meeting for all volunteers in the church hall on Monday 28th August at 7.30pm to plan for the number of people required to help with each stall. **VOLUNTEERS ARE AN INVALUABLE PART OF THE SUCCESSFUL RUNNING OF THE FETE AND WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU.**

We thank all who have contributed to the chocolate wheel and the trash and treasure requests. Keep up the good work. We are also looking for books, children's games, CD's and DVD's.

We still require new quality gifts for the chocolate wheel. Perhaps you know someone who works for a retail company. Gift vouchers are also appreciated.

The rides for the children will go on sale after the weekend Masses 2nd/3rd September and 9th and 10th September.

Tickets will also be sold at the school in the afternoon two Fridays before the fete, 8th and 15th September.

Cost of tickets for unlimited rides will be:

Pre-purchased tickets - \$25 and \$35 purchased on the day. Single tickets are also available for purchase on the day.

The rides will be available from 10.00am -3.00pm

For further information please contact Helen Carter on 9824 1773 or 0418 403 842

Thank you for your continued support



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
Assistant Priest:	Rev Nicholas Rynne
Permanent Deacon:	Rev. Mr. Al Salu
Secretary:	Mrs. Anne Bennell
Parish Office Hours	Mon 10.00am—3.30pm Thurs, Fri 10.00am—3.30pm
Address:	195 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173
All correspondence to:	<u>PO Box 389, Moorebank 1875</u>
Website:	www.stchristophers.org.au
Email:	stchris@tpg.com.au
Tel:	(02) 9825 1679
Fax:	(02) 9825 1488



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

Principal:	Mr. Tony Boyd
School Tel:	(02) 9825 3251
School Mail:	205 Heathcote Rd Holsworthy 2173

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A Sunday 20th August 2017

This week's gospel provides a fascinating illustration of Jesus' response to those in need. Jesus has travelled to the area of Tyre and Sidon – part of modern day Lebanon. He was physically removing himself from the place of his very active ministry and taking a break. When the Canaanite woman approaches Jesus and his disciples, she is an interruption; a nuisance. Jesus is very abrupt with her. He tells her simply that his ministry is to the house of Israel – the Jews – and is not for her. But the woman is persistent and again asks Jesus to help her. Jesus is even more abrupt and tells her that it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. Through this use of metaphor, Jesus refers to the children of Israel (the Jews) and to the gentiles and pagans – sometimes referred to as 'dogs' to reflect their lowly status in the eyes of the Jewish tradition. Still the woman persists and turns Jesus' metaphor back on him, saying that even the dogs get to eat the scraps that fall from the table.

The woman's persistence and faith pay off. Jesus is moved by her faith and through that faith heals the woman's daughter. Despite his initial abruptness and reluctance, Jesus responds with compassion to the woman's request. It is as though she needed to demonstrate that she was really serious and that she did in fact believe that Jesus could make a difference in her life and the life of her daughter. This is an important story in Matthew's gospel. This gospel was written predominantly for Jewish Christians but this story reveals that the ministry of Jesus and the reign of God is open to anyone who believes.

Fr. Greg Sunter



Parish Collections

13/8/2017 **First:** \$1,149.60 **Second:** \$1,309.15

Parish News:



Sacrament of Baptism is held on the 2nd & 3rd Sunday of the Month following the 9.30am Mass. Godparents are examples of faith to the child. They must be confirmed and practicing Catholics, at least sixteen years old. There must be at least one Catholic Godparent, a non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness. Parents must attend a pre-baptismal instruction, which is held on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at 11.00am in the Parish Hall. Please contact the parish office 9825 1679 regarding the Baptismal form.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION We have nearly 40 children enrolled in this program. On Sunday 3rd September these candidates will receive this Sacrament at St Mary's Cathedral. Please keep these children and their family in your prayers.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION We are in urgent need of parents to volunteer as Group Leaders for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Ongoing training and support will be given. Should you be interested please contact the parish office. If your child is in Year 2 or above and has been Baptised Catholic, he/she is eligible to enrol for this Sacrament. Enrolments will be available to download from the parish website www.stchristophers.org.au and there will be enrolment forms in the church foyer from Thursday 24th August - 14th September 2017.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS can now be downloaded. All official photos can be downloaded from this site. The coupon code system has now been activated and ready. <http://giovanniportelliphotography.zenfolio.com/f127206437>

MASS & ADORATION

First Friday of the month

Friday 1st September 7.00pm



Our Mother of Perpetual Help the next monthly Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help will be on Wednesday 6th September from 6:30pm to 7:00pm

Mary MacKillop International Appeal

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to bring life to "the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard." Your donation to Mary MacKillop International will support thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru and Papua New Guinea in education, health and livelihoods opportunities, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

To make a donation please use the envelope provided - no postage is required - or you may go to our website: www.mmi.org.au

Mary MacKillop International
PO Box 1646 North Sydney NSW 2059 Ph: **02 8912 2777**
E: info@mmi.org.au

"Let us show love in our acts." Mary MacKillop 1890

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th Aug 5.30pm.....Reynaldo Ferbandos RIP)
Sunday 20th Aug 8.00amNorma Mezentsef (RIP)
Sunday 20th Aug 9.30am.....Parish Intentions
Monday 21st Aug 9.15am.....For the Sick
Tuesday 22nd Aug 9.15am.....Special Intention
Wednesday 23rd Aug 9.15am.....Vocations
Thursday 24th Aug 9.15am.....Souls in Purgatory
Friday 25th Aug 9.15am
Saturday 26th Aug.....**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.**

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL – ACYF

Early Bird registrations for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival close on Friday 18 August; payment to secure this rate must be finalised by Friday 25 August. All young people from this parish aged from Year 9 to 30 years of age are invited to contact our Deanery Coordinator for further information. **Western Deanery Call James 0487 213 444 or email westerndeanerisydney@gmail.com** The Festival will attract around 15,000 young people from all over Australia. Please support this major initiative of the Australian Bishops and encourage your young people to register. There are 30 free registrations available to State School students also available through the Deanery Coordinator.

Postal Plebiscite on "same-sex marriage" announced

The Australian Government has announced there will be a postal plebiscite on whether the definition of marriage in the Marriage Act 1961 should be changed to include "same-sex marriage". Ballot papers will be sent out to households on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November. If you are not enrolled to vote, or if you need to update your postal address, go to www.aec.gov.au/enrol/ before the cut-off date of **Thursday, 24 August**. Vote No, to keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man.

We Pray For The Sick : Cyril Ferriere, Arthur Aguilar, Mark Cronin and Kerry Stark

Recently deceased: Reynaldo Ferbandos

Anniversaries: Norma Mezentsef



*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them
May they rest in peace. Amen.*