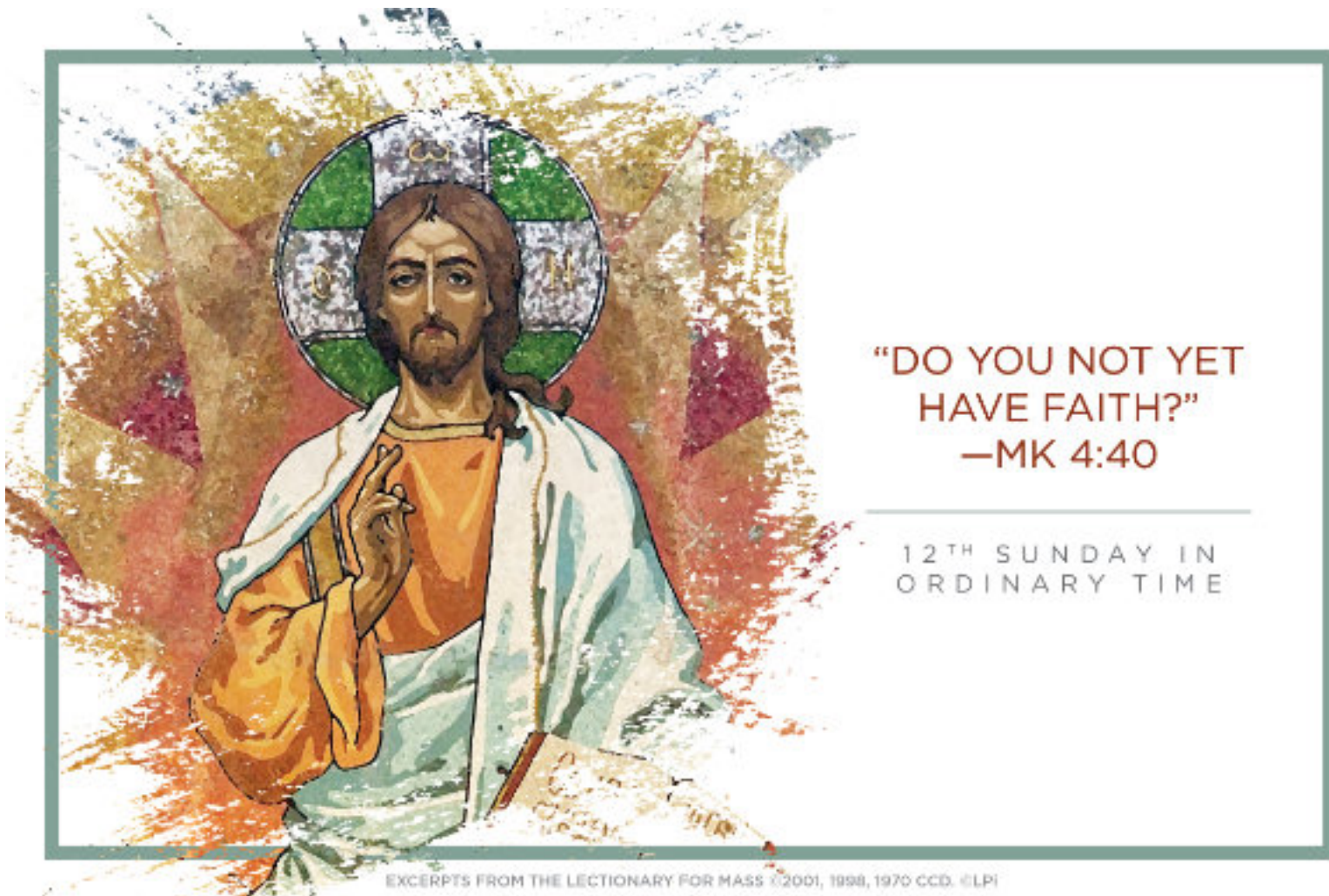




parish newsletter

20 June 2021 | Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Live the Liturgy *Inspiration for the Week*

Do we trust that God will take care of us and has things under control? When life gets difficult, shaky or painful, we may find ourselves wondering what we may have done to deserve



this fate. Often, we go to great lengths to explain suffering away, as if it has no purpose and ought not to exist. In an attempt to get God on our side in our battle against suffering, our prayer can mirror a question asked by the disciples: do you not care that we are perishing? As we are asking that question of God, God is asking of us: do you not yet have faith? It is for certain that God does not intentionally inflict pain upon us. God has no sinister plot to test our faith or trip us up. Rather, the unconditional, restorative and rejuvenating power of God's love can bring light out of the greatest darkness and gives hope in the midst of deep despair. We have to be patient and ride out the storm. It is our task to deepen our faith that God will calm the wind and draw meaning out of that which seems senseless.

Reflecting on the Gospel

As we look at our lives and world events, do we ever find ourselves wondering if God is sleeping? After all, maybe God's patient, unconditional love has run its course and He is finally fed up with humanity's reluctance to accept the truth about who we are. God really can't be that patient! All throughout human history, many have prayed to God for intervention or for particular needs. Because their prayers were not answered in the way they wanted or anticipated, they felt that God may have abandoned them. Were they right? It seems that we are continuing, at a rapid rate, down a path of destruction. Do you not care, God, that we may be perishing? When the boats of our lives are rocking and the seas tumultuous, we want to know that we have God's attention. Even

more so, we want God's intervention. Maybe the storms and the waves are necessary. If we listen, they can teach us valuable lessons. Without them, we would never learn that we have the strength to endure, understand the uselessness of fear and worry, or develop the ability to really trust. If God immediately rushed in and simply calmed things down before they got difficult, what good would that really be? We would miss opportunities to learn how to drink more deeply of life, treasure its complexity, irony, and beauty and fully engage ourselves in surrendering to the love of our Creator. It is easy to walk on the surface of life without immersing ourselves in its messiness. Life has to burn its way through us in order to bring us to a place of secure trust. It's

unfortunate that some prefer a shallower journey.

That's the balancing act that comes with faith. It is not God's job to prevent us from encountering the torrential rains and winds of life. Many believe that if faith is done the right way, that God will provide for smooth sailing. That's not how it works. God permits us to ride out the difficult stuff knowing that the storm will eventually be calmed. Do we not have faith that God will do this? True faith trusts in the steadfastness of God's love when the seas are calm and when they are choppy. God's unconditional loving presence shines through all of it and endures forever. Knowing this allows us to put our boats out into uncharted waters without hesitation. Knowing that we prefer the comfort and safety of what we know to be still waters, how do we feel when Jesus says, "Let us cross to the other side"?

Everyday Stewardship

Recognise God in your everyday moments



Waking God

A show of hands, ladies and gentlemen. Have any of you been given the silent treatment and had absolutely no idea why?

On the flip-side, have any of you sworn you're not going to demean yourself by explaining, for the thou-

sandth time, that you need extra help with the kids before soccer practice, or that you feel ignored when your spouse doesn't ask how your day went?

But sadly, love doesn't give you the ability to read minds. And in the end, we learn the lesson again and again, we have to verbalise our feelings, our needs, our wants. Expecting your partner to anticipate your needs is guaranteed to end badly.

It's the same with God, even though, oddly enough, He does have the ability to read minds. But He still desires us to explain ourselves to Him, doesn't He? "I'm feeling scared of this." "I'm really worried about that." "God, I think I need x, y and z. Help me. Please."

Jesus slept on that boat, as it was

tossed and turned by the waves, until his disciples woke him. "Why were you sleeping?" they ask. Well, geniuses, he was sleeping because they hadn't woken him up yet. They had wasted time cowering in fear, waiting for him to act. They gave him the silent treatment and they didn't even know it.

God doesn't desire us to verbalise our needs as a way of keeping us submissive. He's not that petty. What He desires is the communication — that's what really counts. That act of opening yourself up, of becoming vulnerable, of relying on Him, trusting Him. If it feels like God is asleep in your life, ask yourself this, have you tried waking Him up?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

First Reading

Thus far shall you come but no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stilled! (Job 38:11)

Psalm

O give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures for ever..

Second Reading

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. (2 Cor 5:17)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel

Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" (Mk 4:40-41)

This Week

20	TWELFTH SUNDAY (B)	Jb 38:1, 8-11/Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31 [1b]/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41
	10.30 Mass	St Mary's Margaret Ballantyne (RIP)
	17.00 Mass	St Mary's People of the Parish
21	Monday	Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22 [12]/Mt 7:1-5
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's Les Lane (RIP)
22	Ss John Fisher & Thomas Moore	Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5 [1b]/Mt 7:6, 12-14
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's Mark, John & George (Anniv RIP)
23	Wednesday	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mt 7:15-20
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's Ints of Angela McAuliffe (90 th)
24	Birth of John the Baptist	Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15 [14a]/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
	10.30 Mass	St Cecilia's Cicely Carpenter (RIP)
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's Ints of Hazel Daroczy
25	Friday	Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [4]/Mt 8:1-4
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's Moyra Keehner (RIP)
26	Saturday	Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 53, 54-55 [cf. 54b]/Mt 8:5-17
	10.15 Confession	St Mary's
	11.00 Mass	St Mary's Alan Wilson (RIP)
	18.00 Vigil Mass	St Cecilia's John Snowdon (RIP)
27	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY (B)	Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 [2a]/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/Mk 5:21-43
	12.05 Mass	St Mary's David Bellamy (RIP)
	17.00 Mass	St Mary's People of the Parish



Bernadette, Jean Maureen, Christopher, Paula, Liz, Peter, Emilia, Jean, Teresa, Cath and Norman, the sick sisters at Oaklea, David



The Holy Souls and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

If you would like a name added to our prayer list, please email or call the parish office.

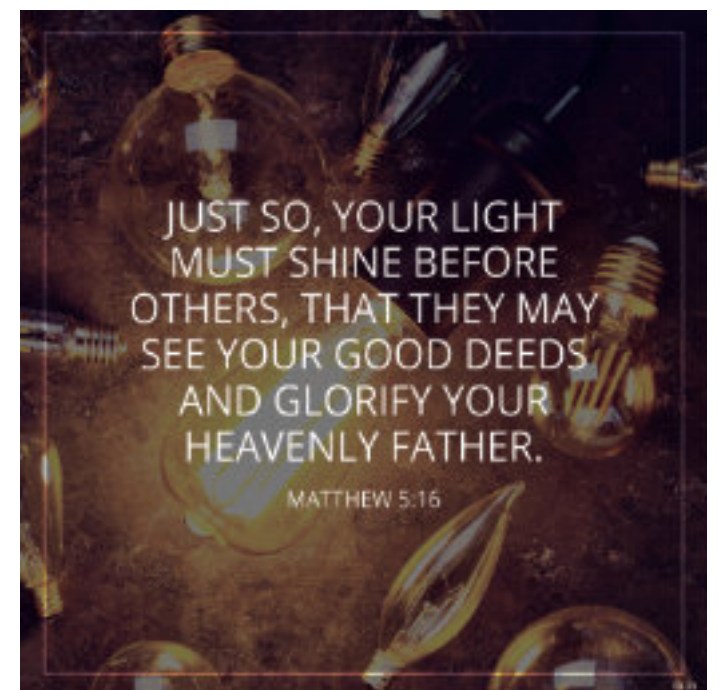


Questions for the Week

First Reading: Much of the book of Job addresses the mystery of suffering and God's role in human affairs. Today we hear part of God's response to Job's questioning with images of the sea and raging waters, representing God's power and omniscience. What helps remind you it is God who governs the universe with purpose and fidelity?

Second Reading: Paul encouraged the Corinthians to have the conviction of faith that since Christ died for all, believers should now live for him. In doing so, we become a "new creation." How have you seen this happen in your life as a person of faith?

Gospel: Early in their following of Jesus, the disciples' witness of the miracle of Jesus calming the storm at sea led them to ask: "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?" How would you explain to others who wonder about the divinity of Jesus?



News & Announcements



40 Hours' Devotion
The 40 Hours' Adoration is still on! However, with the covid rules not being relaxed we need your help more than ever to minister as stewards. If you can give an hour or two during the 40 hours to help as a steward to ensure social distancing

as well as to help with keeping St Mary's clean please put your name on the back of the church.

It is great that so many people have signed up to commit to keeping time with the Lord. There are some spaces left and even if someone has already put their name down for a time you wanted, you can still come at that time. You are welcome to come even if you have not put your name down and you're welcome to pop in as many times as you want during the 40 hours.

This weekend and next we'll be handing out prayer cards. Please take a few home with you and give them to your friends, family and neighbours. Write on the back the names of people you want to pray for, or particular intentions. There will be a big basket in front of the Blessed Sacrament for where you can put the cards. This way we can remember before the Lord everyone we want to pray for.

What do you want?

We're all on a journey that will take us into eternity and, God willing (which he does!), happiness with him in heaven. The grace of the parish is that no one is on that journey by themselves and that we help and support each other along the way. No one person, however, has all the answers and no one group has a monopoly on the the good ideas. Is there

something the parish can do to support you on your journey? Have you seen something done really well elsewhere and thought it would be good to try here? Why not share your idea with one of the clergy or a member of the parish pastoral council. The Holy Spirit inspires all of us in different ways. If you've been inspired please share it!

Keeping in Touch

During lockdown much of our communication and outreach moved online. This allowed us to keep in contact with many parishioners; however, not everyone is comfortable using technology. We're concerned that we may have lost contact with some of our housebound, elderly or shielding parishioners and we'd like you to help us reestablish the connection between them and the parish. If you have a relative, friend or neighbour who you think would like a newsletter or would like a visit (when those are allowed again) please ask them. When you have their permission to share their details with us, please let us know in the parish office and we can make contact.

Although we might be delayed coming out of lockdown we can start now by reestablishing connections and building new ones so that we're ready as soon as the regulations allow. We will still produce a full program of digital content and will make that available on our online platforms; however, nothing beats human contact. Please help us keep our parish relationships strong.

Northern Saints' Icons Exhibition

Starting on 17 June to 4 July, on Thursdays to Sundays, from 1-4 pm there's an exhibition of icons of the northern saints at Ushaw College. The icons were written by amateur iconographers at the Oaklea Centre in the Convent.

disciples' faith wasn't being tested for God's benefit, but for their benefit. The point is that God knows us, but we often don't know ourselves. When we're 'put to the test' God wants us to discover where our faith is strong and where it is in need of growth. We might say we believe and trust in God but those are only words until a crisis comes that challenges us to actually live out that faith and trust. We're like athletes preparing for a race. Sometimes the training is hard but the goal is more than worth it!



Why do we do that?



Question: What do the colours of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean?

Answer: In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colours of the vestments evolved over

the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colours used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colours. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colours remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration.

- White: Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This colour is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations.
- Red: As the colour of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.
- Violet: The colour for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (November 2).
- Green: A colour of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.

Other colours: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green.

Flock Notes

I was speaking this week with someone about being tested by God. If God knows us better than we know ourselves, if he knows what were going to do or say before we do or say it, what's the point of testing us? It's almost cruel to subject us to a test when God already knows the result, isn't it?

My answer is to look again at today's gospel. The

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Rev Eddy Barker, Parish Deacon
Canon Alexander Barrass, Priest in Residence



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Confession: Saturday 10.15am and after Mass until 12:30pm.