

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
12 February 2023

Faith Communities
of Adamstown
Cardiff and Kotara



“That They May All Be One.”

*‘Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve.’ (Mt 20:28)*

~ A humble service with a smile~

All Saints Catholic Home - Blackbutt South

‘Listening to God’s word, growing in faith, reaching out to all’

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: 9:30AM Adamstown
Wednesday: 7:00AM Kotara
9:30AM Adamstown
Thursday: 9:30AM Cardiff
Friday: 9:15AM Kotara
Saturday: 9:00AM Kotara (1st Saturday)

Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil): 5:30PM Kotara
Sunday: 8:00AM Adamstown
9:30AM Cardiff

Adoration: 6:00PM Kotara (Sundays)

CHURCHES

St Columba’s Church Lockyer Street
ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Kevin’s Church 228 Main Road
CARDIFF NSW 2285
St Philip’s Church 31 Vista Parade
KOTARA NSW 2289

PRESBYTERY

Parish Priest Fr Joseph Figurado PP
Parish Deacon Dcn Naveen Kumar
Postal Address 31 Vista Parade
KOTARA NSW 2289
Presbytery Phone 02 4957 5949
Mobile 0452 280 687

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Secretary
Finance Mrs Liza Ruitenbach
Street Address 230 Main Road
CARDIFF NSW 2285
Postal Address PO Box 233
CARDIFF NSW 2285
Office Phone 02 4954 0977
Email asbsparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Website www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday 9:00AM to 3:00PM
Wednesday TBA
Thursday TBA

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Columba’s Lockyer Street
ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Kevin’s School 226 Main Road
CARDIFF NSW 2285
St James School 30 Vista Parade
KOTARA NSW 2289
St Pius X College Park Avenue
ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
St Paul’s College 70 Primrose Street
BOORAGUL NSW 2284

LENTEN PASTORAL NOTES

Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday** are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth year, until the beginning of their sixtieth year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year (CCL 97, 1251f).

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised.

Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year, in Australia and New Zealand between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

HOMILY

Gospel Reflection

Today’s First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the ‘Law’ is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today’s gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

Historical Context – But I now say to you...

There is a distinct pattern to the teaching examples Jesus provides: ‘You have heard it said ...’; ‘but I now say to you...’. This was a common method of teaching in Jesus’ day and is often used as an example to suggest that Jesus was regarded as a Rabbi in his day. It is a typical rabbinical method of interpreting scripture. The rabbi quotes the teaching (you have heard it said...) and then offers an interpretation or reinterpretation of that teaching (but I now say to you). While it is an unfamiliar teaching style for us today, it would have been common in Jesus’ time.

Living the Gospel – Interpretation

Jesus demonstrates the crucial nature of interpretation. It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and dismiss them as irrelevant. Taken literally, they may seem to have fairly limited application to our modern lives. However, interpreted in a broader context and within the context of our own lives, such ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements. Interpretation of scripture for our modern lives and modern world is vital to living life to the fullest.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.’ John 15:9

- LITURGY OF THE WORD -

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)

2. You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. (R.)

3. Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. (R.)

4. Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity:
not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of
our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of
God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God
predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a
wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known,
or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what
scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has

heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared
for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through
the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even
the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37 Shorter form

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper
than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the
kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not
kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court.
But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will
answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery.
But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has
already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You
must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord.
But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes"
if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this
comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of God.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

OR Jn 3:16

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,



At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

NEXT WEEK

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Lv 19:1-2. 17-18
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8
 Second Reading: 1 Cor 3:16-23
 Gospel Acclamation: 1 Jn 2:5
 Gospel: Mt 5:38-48

PRAYER REQUESTS

We remember in our prayers...

Sick: Les Bryde, Amy Perram, Isaac Clifford, Leonie Pickett, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Lorraine Caldwell, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Chris Patsan, Dorota Bakowska, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Maria Kanonczuk, Sharyn Trappel, Clare Sullivan, Jill Heffernan, Laurel Dixon, Jarrad Bryant, Barry Moore, Tom Campbell, Baby Anthony Dib, Helen Tumbers, Don Robertson, Paula Brown.

(Once the person is well again, would you kindly inform the Parish Office).

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Laurie Hafey, Wilfred McCudden, Peter Sawkins.

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them. ☩ May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Mass Intentions for publication may be written on an envelope on the collection plate, or to the Parish Office by email, or by phone; by 9:00AM Wednesday each week ahead. Mass Offering envelopes are available at the church entrance. Please write details clearly to avoid errors. A reminder that you need the permission of the person, or their family, to enable us to publish names.

REFLECTION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

by Dianne Bergant CSA

At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.



We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

FEAST DAYS

22 Feb: Ash Wednesday
 17 Mar: St Patrick, Bishop
 20 Mar: Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary
 25 Mar: The Annunciation of the Lord
 2 Apr: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

SAFEGUARDING

Our Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the Church.

If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding via P 02 4979 1390 or E childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au.

Promoters of Safeguarding: Our Parish Promoters of Safeguarding are

For further information visit:

Website: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au
 Facebook <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>
 Complaints <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/making-a-complaint/>

MINISTRY ROSTERS

12 February 2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Vicki Petett	Volunteer	Peter Cunningham
Readers	Paula O'Neill Julie Malaspina	Michael Deed Cathy Waugh	Jessica Moulder Giavanna Angeli
Presentation of the Gifts	Kathy Kelly Bernadette Maher	Harrison Family	Donna & Harper Morgan
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Paul Smith	Sr Clare McCudden	Marilyn Thomson
Counters	Lynn Johns Dot Reynolds	N/A	N/A
19 February 2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Barry Bourke	Elizabeth Doyle	Christine Sheppard
Readers	Basia Wedesweiler Therese Nolan	Anne Lamotte Sharon Murphy	Nance Schriber Wendy Hopkins
Presentation of the Gifts	Goodman Family	Maher Family	Dever Family
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Narelle Smith	Paul Gleeson	Giavanna Angeli
Counters	Francine G, Kathy K, Paula O'N	Andrew & Sharon M	John B, Mark N, Val M

· NOTICES ·

PARISH NEWS

Rescheduling of Parish Liturgies/Activities: Rescheduling is happening, and may continue to happen for a while yet, with the appointment of the new Bishop and subsequent meetings.

Deacon Naveen: Our new Deacon is well on the way to completing all necessary formalities and will soon start administering in our Parish.

Fr Gordon: Reminder Fr Gordon will be away 3 March, 24 March.

Cuppa at Adamstown: There will be a Cuppa after Adamstown 8:00AM Mass this Sunday, 12 February, and every second Sunday of the month. All welcome.

St Columba's School Mass: Our Opening School Mass will be celebrated on Friday 17 February at 9:30AM in the Church.

St James' School Mass: Our Opening School Mass will be celebrated on Friday 17 February at 11:00AM in the hall.

Remembrance Mass: PLEASE NOTE the new time of the Remembrance Mass will be celebrated by Fr John Tobin on Friday 17 February at St Philip's Kotara 9:15AM for the parishioners in our community who are grieving the loss of loved ones. You are invited to come pray and stay afterwards for a cup of tea and chat; reminisce and remember those we have loved.

Mellow Yellow Family Group: Movie and meal on Saturday 18 February. Watch 'A Man Called Otto' starring Tom Hanks 5:00PM session at Lake Cinema Boolaroo (arrive 4:30PM to secure a seat, \$10 cash only) followed by 7:00PM bistro meal at Boolaroo Sports Club (own expense). Welcome to attend either or both. Please RSVP by Monday 13 February to Sharon M 0407 565 140 or E smu93562@bigpond.net.au.

Rainbow Family Group: Our next family get together is on Friday 17 February at King Edward Parish meeting near the rotunda from 5:30PM. BYO everything.

St Kevin's School Mass: We will have our School Mass on 19 February at the 9:30AM Mass and will cover all readers and commentators and offertory procession. At this Mass we will have our 2023 school captains inducted and introduce our 2023 kindergarten students to the parishioners.

Penitential Service: An opportunity for all in the Parish to prepare for Lent. Includes burning of Palms. Pancake supper has been a custom at Cardiff, but last year, it was cancelled due to unforeseen reasons. Invitation to all to organise this year's event.

When: Shrove Tuesday 21 February 2023, 7:00PM

Where: St Kevin's Church Cardiff

Ash Wednesday Masses: Ash Wednesday (22 February 2023) is a day of Fast and Abstinence. Mass times are 7:00AM Kotara, 9:30AM Cardiff, 6:00PM Adamstown.

Parish Soccer Day: The Parish Soccer Day will take place on Saturday 25 February, starting at 9:30AM, at St James School Ground, Kotara. All welcome! Even if you are not playing, we would love to see parishioners come along and support this day. There will be a sausage BBQ. Volunteers are needed to cook and help with this day.

Christian Meditation: Christian Meditation has recommenced every Tuesday at 6:00PM at St Philip's. Meditation is a universal wisdom allowing time for simplicity, silence and stillness. Father John Main wrote "in accepting silence we come to know our own spirit." Everyone is welcome.

Bulletin Notices: All items for the parish bulletin need to be received at the Parish Office by 9:00AM Wednesday.

World Day of Prayer: The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. This year's focus is Taiwan. A morning tea will be held at 10:00AM on Friday 3 March and a service will commence at 10:30AM at St Kevin's Cardiff. All welcome. Enquiries Anne M 0416 631 140.

Parish Volunteers: More volunteers are much needed for various activities in our Parish. Please contact the Parish office on Tuesdays during office hours if you are able to help.

Lost Necklace: A gold cross and chain was lost at Adamstown Church or grounds late January. It has sentimental value to its owner. If found, please contact Kathy on P 02 4920 8249.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Clinical Pastoral Education: This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral/spiritual care. It is a qualification required by NSW Health for those wishing to become hospital visitors. It is conducted over six days from 9:00AM to 4:00PM in the MacKillop Parish Pastoral Centre Charlestown. Commencing 20 February, registration is due by 13 February 2023. A certificate is awarded on completion. Enquiries: Fr Roger Zohrab - Pastoral Care Coordinator M 0408 151 481 | E roger.zohrab@health.nsw.gov.au

World Day of the Sick: World Day of the Sick, 11 February, is an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for the caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. A Mass will be celebrated on Friday 17 February commencing at 12:00PM at the Cathedral including anointing of the sick. All are welcome.

Bishop's Installation: The installation of Bishop Michael Kennedy as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will take place on Friday 17 March, 6:00PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West.

Sisters in Faith Dinner: The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council would like you to join us for our Sisters in Faith Dinner to mark International Women's Day. It's an opportunity for all women of faith to come together to form friendships.

Date: Wednesday 8 March | Time: 6:00PM to 9:00PM

Location: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West

Cost: \$30 per person | RSVP by: 1 March 2023

Register: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137

OTHER NEWS

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our CARITAS partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.



Donate via: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or 1800 024 413 toll free.

OUR PARISH LENTEN REFLECTION DAYS

DATE	MASS CENTRE	TIME	SPEAKER
23 February 2023	St Philip's Kotara	5.00 PM	Fr Bill Burston
02 March 2023	St Columba's Adamstown	5.00 PM	Fr Bob Searle
09 March 2023	St Kevin's Cardiff	5.00 PM	Sr Carmel Moore
16 March 2023	St Columba's Adamstown	5.00 PM	Dcn Naveen
23 March 2023	St Philip's Kotara	5.00 PM	Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
30 March 2023	St Kevin's Cardiff - Parish Reconciliation	6.00 PM	Fr Priyantha Kamal Suranga

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