

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME
YEAR A
19 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 Cardiff
(ASH WEDNESDAY) 6:00PM 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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

by Greg Sunter

The first part of today’s gospel passage is perhaps one of the most misunderstood of Jesus’ teachings. The notion of turning the other cheek usually brings up notions of non-violence, submission, or even sometimes a victim mentality. It seems an odd teaching to tell someone who is being hit to simply stand there and present the other cheek to also be hit. It’s odd because we generally fail to understand the cultural context that is the setting for this teaching.

In the first century, a master would discipline a slave or servant by striking them with the back of his hand. Assuming the master is right handed, a back-handed strike would be delivered to the right cheek of the person he faced. If the servant were to then present his left cheek to the master, it becomes impossible for the master to strike with the back of his hand and forces him into using an open-hand slap or a closed-fist punch to the left cheek. Not much of an improvement, you might think. However, servants were disciplined with the back of the hand and only equals fought in such a way that would deliver blows to the left side.

What Jesus is saying to those who are oppressed is to offer no resistance but at the same time stand up for yourself and make your oppressor recognise you and treat you as an equal, not an inferior. It is extremely dangerous advice! Its aim is to shame the oppressor.

The other two examples, surrendering your cloak when sued for your tunic and walking two miles when required to walk one are also examples of seeking to shame the one who would use their power and strength against you. That’s not being a submissive wimp; that’s staring the bully in the eye! Historical Context – Walk two miles.

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier’s pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, ‘If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.’ Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them.

Historical Context – Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus’ time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you’re wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

Living the Gospel – Love your enemy

Jesus tells us that it’s easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It’s easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It’s easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It’s easy to hate the person who’s nasty to you. But Jesus says that it’s these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 12:6

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

Lv 19:1-2. 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus
You must love your neighbour, as yourself.
The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 3:16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Jn 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

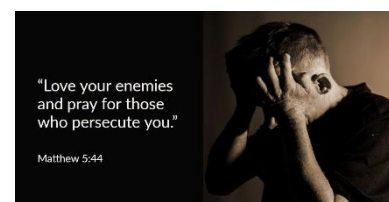
'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 9:2-3

I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.



PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquillity, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

NEXT WEEK

First Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7
 Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3
 Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19
 OR Rom 5:12, 17-19
 Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:4
 Gospel: Mt 4:1-11

PRAYER REQUESTS

We remember in our prayers...

Sick: 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: Leslie Bryde.

Anniversaries: Margaret McVie, Patricia Taylor.



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

Seventh 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
 6 Apr: Mass of the Lord's Supper
 7 Apr: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

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.

MINISTRY ROSTERS

19 February 2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Barry Bourke	School Mass	Christine Sheppard
Readers	Basia Wedesweiler Therese Nolan	School Mass	Nance Schrieber Wendy Hopkins
Presentation of the Gifts	Goodman Family	School Mass	Dever Family
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Narelle Smith	School Mass	Giavanna Angeli
Counters	Francine G, Kathy K, Paula O'N	Andrew & Sharon M	John B, Mark N, Val M
26 February 2023	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Diana Hannigan	Paul Gleeson	Marilyn Thomson
Readers	Stan Heaney Dot Reynolds	Elizabeth Doyle Ben Lerch	Faye Robertson Emma South
Presentation of the Gifts	Preciosa Winter Gloria Ramage	Lamotte Family	Burgess Family
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Vicki Pettett	Majella Maher	Jessica Moulder
Counters	Hamilton K		

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion donation box to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and For All Future Generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said, **"The future starts today, not tomorrow."**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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: Deacon Naveen has started to administer in our Parish.

St Kevin's School Mass: Today, Sunday, we welcome our students, teachers and families of our school for their School Mass. At this Mass school captains will be inducted and our 2023 kindergarten students introduced to the parishioners. Join us for morning tea afterwards.

Family Group: The Red Rovers Family Group is meeting for lunch at Cafe Ha Ha's, Brunner Road Adamstown (near the Nag's Head) this Thursday, 23 February, at 11.30am. If you would like to join us, please contact Diana on 02 4943 0303 by this Tuesday 21 February so a booking can be made.

Penitential Service: An opportunity for all in the Parish to prepare for Lent. Includes burning of Palms and pancake supper. Invitation to all to organise this year's event. All welcome, Tuesday 21 February 2023, 7:00PM at St Kevin's Church Cardiff.

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday 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.

World Day of Prayer: 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.

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.

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.

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.

Collections: Thank you to all who continue to support our parish financially. First Collection supports Clergy and Second Collection supports the parish.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rite of Election: The Rite of Election on Sunday 26 February 2023 is an opportunity to welcome all the catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. You are invited to join the People of God in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic from 2:30PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. Please RSVP for catering to E sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au P 02 4979 1134.

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.

Christian Formation Course: Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church? The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy. The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expressions of Interest for 2023/2024 are now open. Next course commences on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol.

OTHER

Middle East Emergency Appeal: Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to the recent earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria. Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

Aid to the Church in Need Australia: Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of material and economic war. ACN is helping priests and religious, who are working across the country in parishes, with refugees, in orphanages and homes for the elderly. The main cities where we are sending immediate help are Kyiv, Zaporizhyya, Odessa and the region of Donetsk. We are doing everything we can to assist our Ukrainian brothers and sisters to be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue to be a light in Ukraine. ACN needs your help to continue this mission. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine>.

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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