



Welcome to the Catholic Parishes of Lithgow and Portland

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the Land and pay respect to the Elders both past and present.



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B

5 September 2021

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading:**Is 35:4-7**

God comes with vindication.

Responsorial Psalm:**145:7-10. R. v.1****(R) Praise the Lord, my soul!**

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading:**Jas 2:1-5**

Do not judge by appearance.

Gospel Acclamation:**cf. Mt 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel**Mk 7:31-37**

Jesus heals the deaf man.

Next Week: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time B : 1st - Is 5:5-9; PS - 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9; 2nd - Jas 2:14-18; GA - Gal 6:14; Gospel - Mk 8:27-35

1st September 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

May I encourage everyone, unless they have a medical condition which would preclude it, to take up the opportunity to be vaccinated against Covid-19: both to protect their own health and the health of others.

These were my own reasons for receiving vaccination many weeks ago. I relied on reputable medical advice about the efficacy and safety of the vaccines; and on the teaching of the Catholic Church that it was morally lawful.

Indeed, Catholic doctrine guides me to understand this as an act of solidarity and care for the common good.

Everyone is responsible for his or her own conscience, before God. That entails a responsibility to make it well-informed.

While some people who are Catholics may, for personal reasons, decide not to be vaccinated, that would be their own choice, not one directed by Church teaching.

In the meantime, please join me in praying for one another, especially those who are suffering the most in this pandemic. May this experience lead us to turn closer to Christ and find in him the way to compassion and service for our sisters and brothers.

+Michael McKenna

Bishop of Bathurst



MASSES ONLINE

- ❖ **St Patrick's, Lithgow**, 10.00 am Sunday 5 September, Mass on Zoom details will be forwarded separately via email to the Parish mailing group, or contact the Presbytery 0263513092
- ❖ **Cathedral (Bathurst)** with the Bishop presiding, on Sunday at 10.00am via Facebook and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKuGx6oK5mU>

- ❖ **Dubbo Parish** - Mass on Thursday at 5.45pm and Sunday at 9.00am via Facebook
- ❖ **Mudgee Parish** - Mass on Sunday at 10.00am via Facebook
- ❖ **Daily Mass** is also available from the Church of St Francis Xavier, Lavender Bay at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

LITHGOW PARISH

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Seminarian: Thao Van Nguyen

P/A: Sr Anne Houston rsj

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Thurs and Fri (8.30am -4.00pm)
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St Matthew's Rydal
St Mary's Kirkconnell
St Brendan's Cullen Bullen
St Jude's Capertee

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BATHURST DIOCESE

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All Masses and events cancelled, Churches closed until further notice from NSW Health

Dear Friends

I trust you all are doing as well as possible as we continue our lockdown. Deacon Thao and I continue to pray the Mass for all in our Parishes, and together with Sr Anne do our best to make some contact with those on their own. I am able to make a pastoral call if you, or anyone you know of is sick - please contact me at our Parish office on 6351 3092 and leave a message if unanswered.

Please note the Bishop's Pastoral letter re COVID - both to protect ourselves and others. I am grateful to have received my two "jabs". I encourage all to consider being vaccinated as part of our responsibility towards the common good (on a selfish note, I also want to be able to move freely in the future)!

I encourage you all to attend our Zoom Mass at 10.00 am on Sunday so we can be connected spiritually.

Thanks to all for your good wishes for my anniversary on Wednesday, 1 September.

Our weekly bulletin and other important messages are sent through our office.lithgow@cdob.org.au email address. If you are not receiving

our messages and wish to, please send an email to this address with your name and contact number and you will be added to the list. The list will never be shared with anybody outside of our Parishes. Also, if you should be receiving them but are not, please check your spam or junk folders and if still no luck, again please send an email to office.lithgow@cdob.org.au with your name and a contact number so we can check our details. If you do not have email but wish to receive the bulletin, please call the Presbytery.

May our Lord continue to give us all the strength we need.

Fr Garry

Paralympians offer testimony of hope and courage. This week in Tokyo, the Paralympic Games got underway. I send my greetings to the athletes and I thank them because they offer everyone a witness of hope and courage. They, in fact, manifest how being committed to sports helps overcome apparently insurmountable difficulties.' Pope Francis, 25 August 2021

HOMILY by Richard Leonard

I read the other day a true story about a baby girl who was seriously ill in a Neonatal ICU. The paediatric specialist said there was very little hope. The baby's five-year-old brother, Michael, kept begging his parents to let him see his sister. 'I want to sing to her', he kept saying. Children were not allowed in the ICU, but Michael's mother eventually insisted that he be able to see his sister.

When he got to the humidicrib he sang: 'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey'. The nurse reported that as Michael sang, the baby's pulse rate began to calm down and become steady. 'Keep on singing, Michael', encouraged his mother with tears in her eyes. 'You never know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't take my sunshine away.' The baby recovered and left the hospital three weeks later.

I am not pretending for a moment that Michael's song healed his sister, but we should never underestimate the power of human support and love. It helps us to be healed.

The Gospel story of the healing of the deaf mute is striking because it is one of the few stories where the crowd makes the request of healing from Jesus. This is understandable given that the man cannot speak for himself, but the scene, as Mark writes it, is very touching. Mark tells us that the crowd brought the man to Jesus. 'They' beg Jesus to heal him, 'they' are ordered not to tell anyone about the miracle, but 'they' go straight out and tell everyone about it.

What happens there is what happens here every Sunday. Coming to Mass is not a private affair. It is not my Mass, my prayer, my Church. The pronouns we use reveal a lot about our attitudes. It's our Eucharist, our prayer and our Church. Within the Mass there are opportunities for private prayer, but



Eucharist is, essentially, an action of the assembled community. In our own way we bring the deaf and the mute to Jesus each time we gather. This is what the Prayers of the Faithful are all about. This is why they are so important.

When we visit another parish we can tell a lot about it by the care with which the intercessions are composed and compiled. If they only attend to the needs of the parish and never with the wider Church or the world, if they focus on the needs of the Catholic world and never with the plight of those in crisis, who may not share our faith or may hold to another or no faith, it says so much.

The Church has always believed in the power of intercessory prayer. Not that God needs to be reminded what our world needs. God knows that better than we know it. But intercessory prayer sorts our priorities and establishes who has a claim on our affections and concerns. It also enables others to know that we stand in solidarity with them.

And miracles still happen when we are one with those for whom we hope and pray. Sometimes the first miracle that occurs is that we notice the needs of some group beyond our immediate circle. Their suffering moves us and we choose to help them.

Let's pray in this Eucharist that Christ removes our blindness, opens our ears and loosens our tongues so that we speak up for those who are most in need of a healing word that brings them justice and peace.

© Richard Leonard SJ

**Pope's September prayer intention:
'An environmentally sustainable
lifestyle'**

A Blessing Prayer for Father's Day

by Greg Sunter

God of Kindness and Compassion,
we are your children and you are Father to us all.

We give honour and thanks to those who reflect your fatherly example:

those who are dads and grandads;
step-dads, foster dads, godfathers and fathers-in-law;
those who are coaches, leaders and mentors;
and those who are elders and wisdom-men of our communities.

We look to these men for strength of body and strength of character.

We look to them to pass on skills and pass on stories.

We look to them to protect and provide.

We look to them for care and compassion.

We look to them to be co-creators and stewards of the world.

For all those who embrace their role as father, we give thanks.

For those who struggle with being fathers, give them strength.

For those who are distanced from their children, give them comfort.

For those who have passed from this world, give them peace.

Bless these men that we call father.

Bless them in their strength and in their weakness.

Bless them in their joy and in their sorrow.

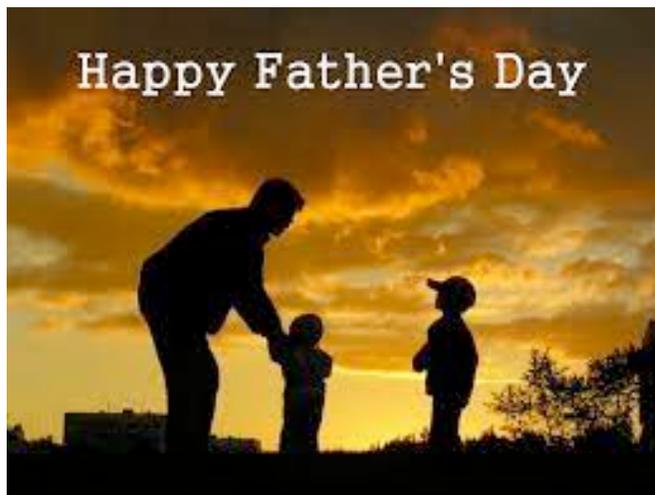
Bless them in their work and in their play.

And bless them, Father, for being fathers.

We make this prayer through the one who taught us to call you Our Father:

Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.



Challenge for Season of Creation 2021

Sue Martin 30 August 2021

Our challenge for the Season of Creation 2021 is to truly listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

'Today, however, we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' – *Laudato si'* 49

Our challenge for the Season of Creation 2021 is to truly listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. This is a call from Pope Francis, but also, here in Australia, the call of the Australian Bishops as we unpack the [2021/2022 Social Justice Statement](#).

Can we build deep listening into our ecological practice over the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October).

Our challenge as we build our faith in action is to accompany those who are crying out. Where are the cries of the earth and the poor for you as we begin the Season of Creation? And what does authentic listening look like?

The spiritual exercises give us the tools needed to deeply listen, as we listen to the sounds of creation we can gradually tune in to God's voice. To truly see the wonder and awe in all creation. Can you spend some time each day listening to sister, mother earth? As we build our spiritual strengths in listening, we are called to not just listen but to hear the cries.

For many listening to the cries of those affected by COVID-19 in our own communities and across the globe, we are listening and want #endcovid4all.

LISTEN TO YOUTH LEADERS

I have set myself the challenge to listen to our Ecojesuit climate youth leaders. One youth leader inspired me to find a way to share her story, a very simple zoom interview can be found here https://youtu.be/PsjY_4A8m88.

Novita Tongo lives in Bandasari, Kalimantan on the island of Borneo, Indonesia. For Novita the global north through industries such as extraction and palm oil plantations has seen her natural environment altered, so much so that the rivers dried up in the dry season and locally the rainforest has been replaced by palm oil monocultures. Novita is grieving. But we are listening. Sr Ana Pina, who is part of the [Ecojesuit network](#), has started Girls Moving Indo encouraging leadership by Novita, and with the bamboo project they have started. Novita shares 'Nature has put in all its strength to heal me. Today Nature is suffering. It's a sign for me to do something. It's a call for me to go 'Home', to heal one of its wounded parts. Now. Here. In my hometown. Borneo.'

For me Novita is truly inspirational.

ACTION IDEAS

Your challenge maybe just to listen to creation in your backyard, your local park. You may be close to a landscape scarred after the bushfires or floods, what are the cries you can hear? How could you respond?

For many, the recent [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) report has us grieving. During the 2021 Season of Creation, thousands of Christians will get together for a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, and to discover radically new ways of living with creation. More than ever before, we will unite to pray and take action for our common home. This Season of Creation can you deeply listen to the cry of the earth, and the cry of the poor and #act4ourcommonhome? Why not take some time each day to read, reflect and listen? Or post your 'Eco-actions' to the Catholic Earthcare Facebook page. Further suggested reading: *Laudato si'* (of course!), the Social Justice Statement and the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Further suggestion practices: Sit spot, Walking in nature or Befriending a tree.

Change begins today

Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ 24 August 2021

Pope Francis in his monthly prayer intention for September 2021 prays that we all will make courageous choices.

For Pope Francis, responding to the threat faced by the environment is the most pressing task for our day. The future of our children and of the world depends on what we do today. He does not see the most important responses to climate warming to lie in better technology but in the decisions that we all make. They reach from the small choices we make each day about how to travel to work and what we eat and drink to the huge decisions that government leaders make after long deliberation about how to cut emissions from cars, from farming and from power generation. We can save and nurture our world if we care about it, want to save it, decide to do what we can, and then do it.

That is why Pope Francis in his monthly prayer intention for September 2021 prays that we all will make courageous choices. Good and lasting choices express our enthusiasms. The things that we choose are close to our heart, occupy our thoughts and dreams, and so naturally flow into our plans, our reading, our friendships and our hobbies.

These things compose what Pope Francis calls our lifestyle. This is the cloak in which we wrap ourselves. It is, woven out of the thousands of threads of decisions that we make daily – what to wear, what to eat, how to get to work, how to spend our spare time, what we spend our money on, where we live, what news items to attend to, what stories we allow to touch our hearts, what causes we support, who we partner with, and so on. A simple lifestyle is one in which the threads form a pattern of buying only what we need, walking lightly on the earth, delighting in activities that do not need expensive equipment but bring us close to nature, and celebrating lightly. It is a lifestyle built around direct relationships with other people, with our environment and our society in which we delight in sharing our hearts and minds. We are not interested in piling up money and possessions or in



consuming the world's resources but on respect for the environment of which we are part.

Pope Francis describes these choices as courageous because they are contrary to the directions in which our society leads us. These choices will lead us to opt out of competition, consumerism and compulsion to be a winner. They will make us prize simple and deep relationships to one another and to the environment of which we are part. Many of us will see happiness with less rather than more as odd, as a reproach. What they see as opting out of life we shall experience as diving into its deepest realities.

Pope Francis naturally invites us to think about and to be inspired by young people. They will inherit the world that their elders make by their decisions.

They also see the simple truths that we often hide from by surrounding ourselves in complication. In young people like Greta Thunberg and the those whom she inspired we can find inspiration to be simple in what we see, what we value, and in the passion with which we seek it. They invite us to imitate their enthusiasm and their determination to make the world fit for our descendants to live in.

SRE Teacher needed for Wallerawang Public School

A SRE Teacher is needed to teach a Kindergarten class each Tuesday afternoon at 1.45pm for half an hour at Wallerawang Public School.

If you are able to assist in this most rewarding Ministry please contact Fr Garry at St Patricks Presbytery Ph 6351 3092 and leave your name and number and we will contact you. The Connect Program - "Beginning with God" is used to prepare SRE lessons. If you have no experience we will train you and give you all the support needed to get you started.

With thanks,

Vicki Mair
Southern Region SRE Coordinator
Catholic Diocese of Bathurst
Email: vicki.mair@bathurst.catholic.org.au

Web: The bulletin is available to view each week on our Diocesan webpage: <http://www.bathurst.catholic.org.au/?i=220&lithgow>. Scroll down to the very bottom of page! If you would like to be added to or removed from our email mailing list, please email office.lithgow@cdob.org.au If you wish to be removed from our email list, please reply with "REMOVE" in the body of the email.

Facebook: St Patrick's, Lithgow - www.facebook.com/stpatschurchlithgow/ and St Vincent's Portland - <https://www.facebook.com/stpatschurchlithgow/>.

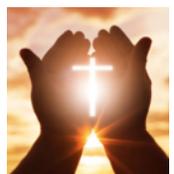
~ PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS ~

Recently Deceased: Mai Waddell

Anniversaries: Pat McKeown, Buddy Dane Ballinger, Moya Seymour, Carmel Compton, Paul Bresac, Majorie Woodrow, Neil Horsburgh

Requests for Remembrance: Mildred, Clyde & Frank Baker; Don Compagnoni; Robert Bradford, Ted Howard; Fitzpatrick & Jabour families; Egan & Collins families; Kathleen Fowler; Howard, Burton & Martyn families; Holy Souls in Purgatory; Mavis Inzitari; Inzitari & Fittler families; Cec Kelly; Austen family; Butta family; Davis & McIntyre families

Relatives, friends and parishioners who have asked for our prayers: Ian Vaughan, Bernadette Seckold, Margaret Kelly, Peter Cains, Geoff Jones, Scott Elferson, Heather Dowsett, Joyce Williams, Therese Walsh, Barbara Millis, Marcia Williams, Catherine Grey, Jason Komma, Jan Bennett, Frances de Horne, Special Intention, James McCreanor, Colleen Stack, Chris Ryan, Jenny Pietkowski, Noah Coolidge, Leonie Johnstone, Residents of Three Tree Lodge, Coinda, Tabulam and Tanderra Nursing Homes, current patients at all local hospitals and facilities.



The privacy of all people including sick persons and bereaved families is respected by the Parish. While we are happy to receive and offer a Mass for any intention, appropriate written consent from the person/parties to whom whom the intention is directed (except for the deceased, of course) must be obtained in order for that intention to be published in the Weekly Bulletin, otherwise it will be noted as a "Special Intention".