



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT 20TH & 21ST MARCH 2021, YEAR B



ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH • LEICHHARDT NORTH

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE STAND. WE WALK ON A LAND ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE GADIGAL PEOPLE OF THE EORA NATION, WHO LIVED IN THIS AREA FOR OVER 30,000 YEARS.

MAY WE CONTINUE TO LOVE AND RESPECT THE LAND AS THEY HAVE.

Parish Details:

📍 213 Elswick St, North Leichhardt 2040

☎ (02) 9569 2267

☎ (02) 9569 5381

✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

🌐 www.stcolumba.org.au



www.facebook.com/stcolumbasleichhardt/

Office Hours:

9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

All bulletin notices to be in by 12pm Wednesday

(Please email or leave under office door and write your message clearly).

Parish Priest:

Fr Peter Smith.....✉ pp@stcolumba.org.au

Parish Office Administrator

Marcia Droguett.....✉ admin@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Nicola Connors.....✉ pa@stcolumba.org.au

Pastoral Council

Secretary.....✉ secretary@stcolumba.org.au

St Columba's School

Principal: Bernard Ryan.....☎ 9569 1270

Weekend MassTimes:

Saturday Vigil.....5:00pm

Sunday.....8:00am

Sunday Family Mass.....10:00am

Weekday Services:

Friday..... 9:15am

Reconciliation:

By appointment

Marriages:

By Appointment, please email Marcia, admin@stcolumba.org.au to arrange.

If you would like to contribute to the Parish Planned Giving please speak to Fr Peter, pick up a form in the Church foyer or contact the office.



Fr Peter's weekly Podcasts of the Gospel are uploaded weekly onto our website and Face Book page.

<https://scln1.podbean.com/>



From Fr Peter's Desk....

EASTER 2021

PALM SUNDAY, VIGIL 27th March, 5pm in the Church

PALM SUNDAY, 28th March, 8am & 10am in the Church

HOLY THURSDAY, 1st April - 7pm, in the Church

GOOD FRIDAY, 2nd April - 3pm, School Play Ground

SATURDAY VIGIL, 3rd April - 5pm, School Play Ground

EASTER SUNDAY, 4th April - 9am, School Play Ground

Palm Sunday: There will be no procession this year.
Please BYO Palm or Branches

Holy Thursday: Entry to the Church, using QR CODE scanning as usual. We are capped at 50 in the church, with seating of one house hold per pew using only the pews that are labelled with a tick.
(If you have bells at home, please bring them in)

Good Friday, Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday:
Will be held in the School Play Ground under a Marquee. Please BYO Chairs and Blankets.
Entry will be like Christmas, through the main school gates using QR Code scanning.

Easter Sunday and Vigil : (If you have bells at home, please bring them in)

Please have the Service NSW App down loaded on your phone, for easy scanning. If you do not have internet on your mobile phone, we can add your details manually.

Additional volunteers needed :
Usher, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers at these Masses, please use this google form.

<https://forms.gle/VYCjN7JjPKhazhQ36>

We thank you in advance for Volunteering

Please keep in mind we are still following strict COVID 19 restrictions and must adhere to social distancing of 1.5meters from people that are not part of your household at all times.

TODAY'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Psalm 42:1-2
Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation
that is faithless. From the deceitful and
cunning rescue me, for you,
O God, are my strength.

1ST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34
These days are coming when
I will make a new covenant
with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15
Create a clean heart in me, O God.

2ND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9
He learnt to obey and became
for all the source of eternal salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 12:26
Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me,
follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to You, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33
If a grain of wheat falls on
the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 12:24
Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless
a grain of wheat falls to the ground
and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.



ST COLUMBA'S MASSES—COVID-19 SAFE

- * We will continue with QR scanning
- * We have been able to increase the number of pews in the Church.
- * **Only one house hold per pew. Please ONLY sit in pews that are labelled,** and we ask that you sit closest to the wall, for social distancing and also makes it easier for wipe down between Masses.

* If you do not have a mobile phone, please arrive 10 - 15 mins earlier, so Ushers can add you electronically.

* **If we reach capacity you will not be able to enter the Church.**

* **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS** If you or any member of your household are unwell or exhibiting common symptoms of COVID-19. (fever 37.5 ° or higher, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of smell or loss of taste)

* **FACE MASKS ARE NOT MANDATORY IN PLACES OF WORSHIP, HOWEVER YOU ARE STILL WELCOME TO WEAR ONE**

* **PLEASE ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REGULATIONS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MASS. PLEASE DO NOT MINGLE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH BEFORE OR AFTER MASS**

Again, thank you to all who have volunteered as Ushers, Cleaners and Readers for our Masses, during these challenging times. We are very grateful for your time and dedication to these roles.

PLEASE VISIT SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE www.sydneycatholic.org AND NSW HEALTH <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/places-of-worship> For up to date regulations regarding COVID-19

Please note: Names will be removed from the sick

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

Marica Popovic, Elizabeth Sedgwick, Silvana Cocilova, Bill Leis, Mabel Winter, Sylvia Gallagher, Dorothy New and Patricia O'Toole, Roisin Smith and Family, Suzanne Campbell, Dan O'Brien, Sr Alice Sullivan rsj, Sharon Weetman, and all those at The Marion Aged Care and Lewisham Nursing Home



*We remember and pray for all our deceased ,
Relatives and Friends*

Anniversary: Nora Thackeray, Jean Byrnes,
Carmen Catalina, John Connelly

USHERS, READERS and CLEANERS NEEDED ESPECIALLY USHERS for ALL MASSES

Thank you to those who have volunteered, if you would like to be part of our roster please fill in the google form with your preference for volunteering.

Using this [GOOGLE FORM](#)

Understandably things can change for availability as weekends approach, I will share the spreadsheet with those

who have volunteered and leave one in the cupboard in the foyer. For readers, I have allocated 1 reader (Blue), but will still highlight who else has volunteered for the same Mass (Red). I will also email the readings for the weekend to everyone. **We are really hoping to expand the pool of volunteers to share the roles.**

USHERS: 2 per Mass: Keeping count ; Looking at peoples phones before entering the Church, checking QR tick; Manually adding people who don't have phones

CLEANERS: Needed to wipe down pews that have been used and lectern approx 15mins) Thank you to those who have filled in the google form already. Here is the link with availability.

READER: First, Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm , Gospel Acclamation and Prayers of the faithful.





Social Justice - St Columba's

The next meeting for 2021 of the St Columba's Social Justice Group will be on **Wednesday APRIL 7 at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall**. Please note that COVID guidelines for social distancing will be strictly observed. There will be no shared meal. Please contact Fay Hair (fayhair11@gmail.com) if you are able to come. All welcome. We would love to meet you!

Supporting the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

This Lent have adjusted our donations program to fit in with the JRS Lenten Appeal: "6 Weeks of Lent – Give 6 Things."

Week 6: Pasta (any kind, but not tinned, please)

Please leave all donations in the JRS Food Basket at the Church Entrance (or at the Parish Office).

*This morning I received an email from Katie, Casework Manager at JRS. It was to say thank you for **three** mobile phones from our parish!!!! Thank you!*

JRS and International Women's Day

The Theme of International Women's Day (IWD) 2021 is #ChooseToChallenge.

Do you remember **Hava**? Hava told her story to us at Masses in 2018 and also to staff from the Primary School. It's a story of resilience and courage. Now in Australia, Hava is certainly doing her best to **choose to challenge**. She is a Hazara community leader, women's rights advocate, and Advisory Committee Member of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia's Finding Safety project. Hava is a mentor to many migrant and refugee women in vulnerable situations across Sydney, and collaborates with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Sydney Alliance, Settlement Services International and other civil society organisations for systemic reforms to refugee and domestic/family violence policy.

In recognition of her work with women, JRS featured her story in a video interview. Go to aus.jrs.net and look for the link in News International Women's Day Special.

Harmony Day March 21

From the government website, www.harmony.gov.au/.
"Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone."

Here are some statistics, taken from the website, about Australia's diversity:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- We identify with over 300 ancestries



Social Justice - St Columba's

Australia

- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

Yes, we certainly a very diverse nation! And there is much to acknowledge and celebrate. Close to home, this has been happening at the Refugee Welcome Centre at Callan Park, which is now in the throes of reopening after shutting down due to COVID. It's a place where local community meet newly arrived refugees and people seeking asylum in a relaxed, informal setting. It's truly a place of welcome, a place that celebrates cultural diversity. Congratulations to the three organisations who sponsor it – Inner West Council, Settlement Services International (SSI) and the Justice and Peace Office of the Sydney Archdiocese.

While there is truly a lot to celebrate – we, as a society, have a long way to go when it comes to equality and acceptance. There is much underlying (and sadly, overt) racism that needs to be overcome. While we can pause on days like Harmony Day and acknowledge progress, there is still much that we must all play a part in stopping.

Part of the process of devising how the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for a Voice to Parliament might work in practice is the production of the **Interim Voice Report**. The Report established a consultation process, what is termed the **Co-Design Process**.

Stage One of the Co-Design Process involved wide consultation of Indigenous people - both at local and national levels. From that came a series of proposed arrangements through which Indigenous people could influence government legislation that affects them. Stage Two of the process is now underway. This is an opportunity for all Australians to give feedback on the proposals.

The Social Justice Group at St. Columba's is making a Stage Two submission. Our submission concentrates on one important aspect of the Voice to Parliament, namely that it should be enshrined in the Constitution.

Individuals can also make submissions or comment on any aspect of the proposals up until March 31. Go to: haveyoursay.voice.niaa.gov.au

Continued over page

From the Justice and Peace Office...

Palm Sunday Justice for Refugees March and Rally – Sunday 28th March 2021 @ 14:00-16:00

Rally & march for Justice for Refugees to show support and solidarity to those who have been mistreated by our government, and demand change in our asylum seeker policy. Come and join us under the Catholics for Refugees banner. If you are planning to attend please email julie.macken@sydneycatholic.org so that we know to look out for you.

CATECHESIS About Liturgy - Memorizing readings:

Some people have a great gift for memorizing texts. I've seen some excellent priests proclaim the gospel reading (every Sunday!) from memory, never straying from the approved translation or paraphrasing it in their own words. Perhaps they have a photographic memory. Whereas for me, I need to take many hours in contemplation and repetition with a reading in order to memorize it well until it becomes a part of me. Today's first reading from Jeremiah speaks eloquently of God writing his covenant not on tablets of stone but on his people's hearts so that "[n]o longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives *I* how to know the LORD." In this way, God's law becomes something that we do not so much memorize as internalize. In other words, being in right relationship with God means being in a relationship of love, not of fear. This intimate relationship with God through Scripture is something that lectors can nurture if they practice a discipline of memorizing at least parts of their readings each week. The purpose of this is not to proclaim the readings from memory, although there may be appropriate *times when a lector might do this. The goal, rather, is to become so intimately familiar with the text that the lector no longer "thinks" about reading the text but merely speaks it from the heart.*

Even if a lector, deacon, or priest memorizes a complete reading and is able to proclaim it without using the Lectionary or Book of Gospels, there is still symbolic value to the reader standing at the ambo with the open book. Even if they never look at the book, by proclaiming the reading from the book, they communicate that this is not their word but God's, handed down from generation to generation and from heart to heart.

Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis for Sundays and Solemnities 2018, © 2017 The Order of St. Benedict, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota 56321



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CONTACT: SECRETARY@STCOLUMBA.ORG.AU

VISION STATEMENT

To witness to the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to the eternal love of Christ; by building and sustaining an open, welcoming and friendly community in which people grow in their relationships with God, each other and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St Columba's Parish Pastoral Council is to:

- welcome and embrace new parishioners;
- support and direct the work of the Parish Priest, Pastoral Associate, and parish groups;
- support and encourage the people of St Columba's parish;
- provide vision and direction to the people of St Columba's parish;
- collaborate with the parish school;
- give members of our parish community a voice; and
- empower people to lead and make positive contributions to our parish and the wider community.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- see;
- judge;
- act; and
- review.

WE, AS A GROUP, ARE FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED TO:

- prayer and reflection;
- our shared Catholic faith;
- bringing Christ's love and grace to Leichhardt and the broader community;
- acting co-operatively as a group based on participation and consensus, not factions or parties; and
- facilitating the spiritual growth of all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL ARE:

Fr Peter Smith *Parish Priest*
Bernard Ryan *Principal*
Nicola Connors *Family Ed.*
Renata Popovic-Tomac
Chairperson

David Hair
Jennifer Cheal
Therese Pacey
Adrian Overs
Tino Mian

Live Masses can be found on
www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/

Sacrament of Confirmation

Families seeking information or interested in enrolling their child/ren are asked to email the Pastoral Associate pa@stcolumba.org.au to receive a copy of the Information and Enrolment Forms.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

21st March 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, we are bonded to God in a covenant by which our sins are forgiven in the Blood of Jesus, carrying now in our hearts God's law of love, so that in every trial we can be obedient to God.

1. With love of Australia and for the whole world, we pray on this National Harmony Day, with its theme, *Everyone Together*, and on this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with its theme *Youth Standing Up Against Racism*, for a determination to eradicate from our own hearts, words and actions anything which offends the dignity of others. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. With compassion for nations and peoples in great distress we pray for those in Myanmar, Lebanon, Syria, and the Holy Land. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. With concern for family life and the pressures endured through poverty, unemployment, violence and health issues, we pray that the example of St Joseph, a tender and loving husband and courageous and protective father, will be a sure guide as we celebrate this Year of St Joseph. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. With unity in faith we pray for Christians persecuted for their faith in the Middle East, and for those who feel disconnected from their parishes by lockdowns and Covid 19 restrictions, that closeness to Jesus will sustain them. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. With trust in the mercy of God we pray that all the departed will be drawn to Jesus and be lifted up to eternal life. We also remember *Nora Thackeray, Jean Byrnes, Carmen Catalina, John Connelly*. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord, you care for your Church with unfailing love, and with the prayers of St Joseph, her heavenly patron, unite us, guide us, and protect us. Through Christ our Lord.