

Reflection by Greg Sunter

In the readings for Ordinary Time, we take a break from the sequence of readings from the Gospel of Mark for a few weeks and this week's reading begins a diversion into chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. The whole of John 6 is an extended discourse that explores the image of Jesus as the Bread of Life. The chapter and the discourse begin with this week's miraculous feeding of the multitude. As this event occurs in each of the four gospels there is a compelling argument that there is some basis in fact or, at the very least, that the metaphoric image of Jesus feeding a crowd was an enduring one in Christian communities.

Jesus is described as testing the disciples, asking them where they might be able to purchase bread for the crowd. Phillip is overwhelmed at the thought of spending a fortune on enough bread for more than 5,000 people. A small boy nearby had a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Jesus took the bread and fish, gave thanks and then had the disciples begin to distribute the food. When everyone had eaten their fill, the disciples collected twelve hampers of leftovers. Some commentators suggest that the twelve baskets represent the twelve tribes of Israel – indicating that the message of Jesus will be enough to feed and sustain the whole of Israel. Having witnessed this miracle the people have a sudden insight into who they think Jesus might be – the promised Messiah come to free them from their Roman oppressors. Wary of the crowd's mistaken understanding of what the Messiah is to be, Jesus literally heads for the hills to avoid being made a political figurehead for the people.

OLOG Parish Expo 2018

Come along to our Parish Expo which is being held after each Mass. There is information on the many ministries in our Parish that need your support!

PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 30 July

- 6.00pm SVdP Meeting – AQ Room
- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

Tuesday 31 July

- 9.30am Scripture group – Library
- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 7.00pm Pre FHC Reconciliation

Wednesday 1 August

- 7.00pm Pre FHC Reconciliation

Thursday 2 August

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area

Friday 3 August (Feast of St Dominic)

- 7.30pm 500 Card Group – AQ Room

Sunday 5 August

- 10am Parish Picnic – St Martin's School

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick and those whose anniversaries occur around this time Raymond Parkinson, Johnny Ting Gui Hua, Patrick Boyle, Joseph Lee, Jose Lay, Antonio Lay, Madalena Nheli, Rosario Coco, Freda Hill and Annamaria Pizzica **and the recently deceased** Harry Pieper, Leony Tamemage, Belen Catay and Dorothy Neylan

Holy Infant Orphanage Mae Sot, Thailand

The Missionary Sister of St Dominic were asked to work with Burmese Refugees in Thailand. One of the ministries they took on was the establishment and running of an orphanage in the north-west of Thailand.



Over the last 7 years, Fr Alex has been travelling to Mae Sot to give retreats to the sisters and to work with the children. This year, he will also be baptising 5 of the older children who have expressed that they wish to be baptised, the fruit of the Sisters work.

Parish communities have supported the many different projects for example, new solar panels for power supply, water tanks and a baker.

Donation envelopes are available at the entrance of the church.

Thank you to all of you who have already contributed through donations or purchasing items from stall.



Fr Alex will be departing for Thailand on 5 August and will return 24 August.

Sacramental Program – Eucharist 2018



This week the children preparing for First Holy Communion are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday 31 July and Wednesday 1 August at 7pm in the Church. We ask that everyone keep these children in their prayers as they begin their next step in their Sacramental journey.

Parish Picnic

It is that time of the year where Our Lady of Graces holds our biannual Parish Picnic to celebrate St Dominic's Feast Day and our Dominican Family. You are all invited to the Picnic brunch which will be after the 9am Mass on Sunday 5 August. The details are as follows:

When: Sunday 5 August 2018 from 10am – 1pm

Where: In St Martin's School Grounds

What's happening?

A BBQ style brunch with:

- Mince/Sausage/Egg Burgers and Bread
- Tea/Coffee/Cordial
- Games and Activities for the Family

All welcome and needs catered for:

- Ramp Access
- Some Tables/Chairs Available

Bring along:

- Share Plate of Sweets / Fruit
- A Chair / Picnic Blanket

RSVP by 29 July 2018

- Add your name and approx. number attending to list at the back of Church

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Loose	\$869.95
Planned Giving	\$3,270.35
Total	\$4,140.30

Planned Giving Program

To obtain envelopes, Direct Debit or a Credit Card request, please complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and place on either collection plate or deliver to Parish Office.

500 Card Group

The 500 card group meet again in the Aquinas Room on Friday 3 August at 7.30pm. Contact Josephine at josephinecoyne@hotmail.com for more information. All welcome!

THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY

**Of Carina & Carindale invite you to
A THREE COURSE LUNCH
IN AID OF MAINTENANCE OF
OUR LADY OF GRACES
CATHOLIC CHURCH CARINA**

**SUNDAY 12 AUGUST 2018 12:00PM
BELMONT SERVICES BOWLS CLUB
Cnr Narracott & Thorne Street, Carina**

Cost: \$40/adult & \$20/Child (5-12)

For further information & booking please call
Anna & Vito Di Stasi 3398 5738
m. 0413633895
Anna Di Clemente 3398 5493

Places are limited, please book in advance, to
avoid disappointment.
RSVP by Monday 6th august 2018
If you are unable to attend a donation will be
appreciated.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Youth and Vocations Expo

"The annual Youth and Vocations Expo invites young people to explore their call. It's also a valuable opportunity for youth to engage with other Catholic ministry organisations across Queensland and Australia that can empower them to help make a difference in their community and deepen their faith. The expo will begin with 12:00 Youth and Vocations Mass at the St Stephen's Cathedral and celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge."

Date: Sunday 5th August 2018

Venue: St. Stephen's Cathedral Precinct
249 Elizabeth St, Brisbane QLD 4000

Time: 11:00 stalls open, 12pm Vocations Mass,
1pm – 2:30pm 2018 Vocations and Youth Expo

Queensland Catholic Schools & Colleges Music Festival

The 28th annual QCMF will be held Thursday evening 16th – Sunday 19th August at Villanova College & St James Parish, Coorparoo. Come and hear schools and colleges from all over Queensland perform in choirs, bands, and ensembles. Festival Passes, available at the door, are \$10/Adult and \$5/Concession. For more information, visit www.qcmf.com.au

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020

Why are we having a Plenary Council in 2020? There are many reasons for having a Plenary Council for the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis has invited the local church to dialogue; the contemporary society of Australia has changed significantly, and the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant and influential event that requires deep consideration and response.

When the Australian Catholic Bishops announced the decision to hold a Plenary Council, Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge said that "the Church is not the presence in our society it once was. We need to take a measure of that and make decisions accordingly. The culture in which we have to proclaim the Gospel is very different to what it was even 20 or 30 years ago."

It is being held in 2020 in order to give the Catholic community in Australia time to listen, dialogue and discern with one another and, guided by the Holy Spirit, about the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Go to www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au for more information.



Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.

We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.

Surname: _____ **Given names** _____

Address _____ **P/code** _____

Phone _____

Email _____