



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT 13TH & 14TH 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....

CATECHESIS About Liturgy

Rejoicing and mourning: So much of our Scriptures, especially the psalms, speak of human emotion and run the whole gamut from exultant rejoicing to resigned grief. On this Laetare (or "rejoice") Sunday, we have similar contrasts. We get the name for this Sunday from the entrance antiphon: "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. / Be joyful, all who were in mourning; / exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast" (Is. 66:10-11). Like Gaudete Sunday in Advent, this midpoint to the Lenten penitential season gives us a little breather. We are halfway through our Lenten observance! Therefore, the rubrics in the Mass call for rose or violet vestments, and instrumental music as well as flowers at the altar may be used on this day.

However, Psalm 137 assigned for today stands in stark contrast to this mid-season rejoicing: "Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! / By the streams of Babylon / we sat and wept when we remembered Zion." What do we make of these extremes in emotion, and how does it inform our liturgical preparation? Is liturgy about feelings, and are liturgists meant to direct an assembly's emotions? Our faith is wonderfully incarnational and human, and we teach that in Jesus' incarnation, all human feeling and experience is transformed by his divinity. Yet, the liturgy itself is dispassionate, not because it is devoid of emotion but because it is rooted in the constancy of God who, out of passionate love for humankind, "gave his only Son, I so that everyone who believes in him might not perish I but might have eternal life." Gabe Huck said it well when he wrote about liturgy and feelings:

Liturgy is not about how we feel. It is about who we are and whose we are. Much is made today of feelings and of the individual's great importance. When Christians enter upon their liturgy, however, all of that must be balanced with something else. The liturgy is what the church does. If I do the liturgy, I do it as a baptized member of this community of baptized persons. In a sense, I play a role that is only partly mine now, the role of a member of God's reign. The liturgy does not exist so that I can get my feelings expressed. Rather, it rehearses me in the feelings I ought to have ...

We can begin to glimpse how the liturgy is filled not simply with emotion but with passion. Look at the words we sing in the psalms and hear in the scripture, look at the lives we celebrate on feasts, look hardest at the very core of the Eucharist. In the Eucharistic Prayer we speak as passionate people about creation and sin and God's relentless love. The climax of Catholic liturgy is the eating and drinking of Christ's body and blood, a deed that holds and little by little reveals a multitude of human passions. (Hymnal for Catholic Students: Leader's Manual [LTP and GIA, 1989], 21)

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

TODAY'S LITURGY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Isaiah 66:10-11
Rejoice, Jerusalem,
and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1ST READING: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
The wrath and the mercy
of the Lord are revealed in
the exile and liberation of his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 136
Let my tongue be silenced,
if I ever forget you!

2ND READING: Ephesians 2:4-10
When we are dead through sins,
he brought us to life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION John 3:16
Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much,
he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him
might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21
God sent his Son into the world that we might be
saved through him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Psalm 121:3-4
Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as
one together. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Please note: Names will be removed from the sick list after 2 months, unless parish office is notified.

We pray for all those who are sick, including:

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*

Recently Deceased: *Freddie Camilleri*

Anniversary: *ERN McGarry, Liz Gill-Beckett, , Pat Harrison, David Watson*

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 spread sheet 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.



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 house old 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



Social Justice - St Columba's

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 5: (This coming week) Tinned lentils/chick peas/red kidney beans/tomatoes**

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).

***Thank you to the generous parishioner who donated a mobile phone.**

Are you interested in working with JRS to bring about a more welcoming and just response for people seeking asylum? JRS is currently organising a gathering of community, parish, and school leaders across Sydney on **Saturday 27 March from 9:30am-12:30pm.** (A light lunch will be provided afterwards from 12:00pm.)

For more info please contact Zoe Grant, zoe.grant@jrs.org.au Venue: Parramatta, exact location tbc Please RSVP by 12 March to Zoe

Bernard Collaery and Witness K

We haven't raised the issue of the prosecution of Bernard Collaery and Witness K for a while. But the case goes on....and on. You might remember that it involves these two men being pursued by the Federal Government for revealing the unlawful bugging of the Timor-Leste Government's cabinet room to advantage the Australian side during negotiations about the Timor Sea boundary. The ultimate beneficiary of this was Woodside Petroleum.

The reason we're revisiting this issue now is because Attorney-General Christian Porter is invoking the "rule of law" in his response to the rape allegation made against him. Yet Porter has ignored the rule of law in his treatment of Collaery and Witness K. (Note that what follows is based on an article in John Menadue's blog, *Pearls and Irritations*).

In prosecuting these two men, Porter has:

- Drawn the case out over several years in an attempt to put pressure on Collaery's financial resources, if not bankrupt him entirely. Three separate judges have criticised Porter for his delaying tactics.
- Continued his attempt to have the trial held in secret, even though any basis in concern for national security is no longer relevant, if it ever was.
- Tried to prevent an eminent lawyer from joining the case on Collaery's side.
- Screened documents before they could be provided to Collaery.



Social Justice - St Columba's

So much for the "rule of law" which is suddenly so important.

Find out more... ANU Webinar: Secrecy and Spying: The Trials of Bernard Collaery and Witness K. 6pm March 31. Speakers include Nicholas Cowdery, Pauline Wright and others.

Also, it's not too late to sign and/or share Sr Susan Connelly's petition to drop the charges against the two men. Just go to: <https://www.change.org/p/christian-porter-drop-the-charges-against-bernard-collaery-witness-k>

Spotlight on Aboriginal Issues: The Uluru Statement

On May 26, 2017 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates presented the Uluru Statement from the Heart to the Australian people.

This followed 13 First Nations Regional Dialogues that deliberated on the proposals put forward by the Referendum Council and the four-day First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart represents a historic consensus of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in seeking constitutional change to enable a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

From the Heart is a campaign to engage Australians about why an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament enabled by the Constitution is a fair and practical change, and how it will unify our nation. (Excerpts from Introduction of fromtheheart.com.au)

In the coming weeks we'll be writing more about the Uluru Statement. In the meantime, you might like to check out <https://fromtheheart.com.au/>

MultiFaith Global Action on Climate Change



#Sacred People, Sacred Earth #Faiths4Climate

As we flagged in earlier Bulletins, there is a global multi-faith movement (Green Faith) advocating for urgent action on climate change under the banners of #Sacred People, Sacred Earth and #Faiths4Climate. Worldwide, thousands of faith

PTO....



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 <i>Parish Priest</i>	David Hair
Bernard Ryan <i>Principal</i>	Jennifer Cheal
Nicola Connors <i>Family Ed.</i>	Therese Pacey
Renata Popovic-Tomac	Adrian Overs
<i>Chairperson</i>	Tino Mian
Vasile Tiano <i>Secretary</i>	

communities took part in actions at 11:00am on March 11 to highlight the urgency of action on climate change. We weren't able to organise any actions from St Columba's for March 11.

However, last Sunday parishioners from 8:00am Mass gathered in solidarity of this movement. Thank you for this show of support!

The **ARRCC website** (<https://www.arrcc.org.au/>) has more information and a link to the faith-based mega climate petition. *It's not too late to add your voice!*

Project Compassion: Be More

If you'd like to find out more about where the Project Compassion money goes to, Caritas has put together a series of Lenten reflections, *Cry of the Poor*. Each week during Lent features a story that highlight the work of Caritas across the Indo-Pacific region. Coming sessions will feature stories from Tanzania, Indonesia and Bangladesh. If you can't make the Zoom sessions, videos can be downloaded from the Caritas website.

Last week Dave and I took part in the session featuring the Solomon Is. We heard about the plight of people with disabilities – the stigma of having a disability in Pacific countries. We heard Margaret's story of how she became a teacher at a school established by Caritas specifically to teach life skills to the deaf. We heard that the guiding principles of Caritas is to empower people to be self-sufficient. So often the starting point was to provide basic needs like fresh water and sanitation to try to improve health standards. Caritas – a worthy organisation needing our support!

Sessions will run via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30pm for one hour. You can register by going to lent.caritas.org.au (Any difficulties in registering, please call Bernard Holland, from Caritas on 0400 156 249).

Sacrament of Confirmation

This weekend, 13-14 March 2021, we begin the registration for this year's Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation Program. 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.

Registration will close on Friday 26 March 2021

Live masses can be found here:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses/>

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.



The 8th March, was International Women's Day.
Here are some of the wonderful volunteers at St Columba's Parish
who share their time and talents to serve our community.
Thank you for all you do!

14th March 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, St John, in the Gospel,
preserves for us the most generous gift of all gifts:
*God loved the world so much,
that he gave his only Son . . .
he sent his Son not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.*

1. That the pastoral ministry of Pope Francis, will continue to witness to God's love for all humanity, and the salvation given through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. That God's action through the pagan King Cyrus, to preserve the covenant with the chosen people, will remind us that God works in mysterious ways. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. That the political and military leaders in Myanmar and Lebanon will choose to live by the truth and so restore harmony and justice to their people. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. That the leaders of the world's richest nations, including Australia, will respect the need for all people to have free access to the Covid vaccine, and so allow for its manufacture in poorer countries. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. That the work of Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, in fostering programmes of hygiene and sanitation among rural farming communities in Indonesia, will continue with our help, so that there are toilets and running water in every home. **Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. That all who have died of the coronavirus around the world will find peace in God. We also remember... *Freddie Camilleri
ERN McGarry, Liz Gill-Beckett, Pat Harrison, David Watson*
Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father,
in your Son Jesus,
we see the Light which guides our way.
In the apprehension and confusion
caused by the pandemic,
may Jesus show us true wisdom,
deep compassion,
and total trust in you.
Through the same Christ our Lord.

WEEK 4: ARSAD, INDONESIA



Watch Arsad's film

Please watch this film prior to showing students, to ensure its suitability for your class. Note the term open defecation is used in the film but not in the written story.

If you did not have a toilet, where would you go? For Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, the idea of having a toilet and running water at home was a dream. Arsad and his family had to walk into the forest, to go to the toilet outside. When he realised that not having a toilet was making his family and community sick, he felt he needed to do something.



Arsad lives in Indonesia's Banten province. He lives with his parents, his wife and three children, aged 4, 17 and his 20-year old daughter, her husband and their four-month old son.

Arsad is a rice farmer who also grows vegetables to feed his family. Arsad says, "It's hard to find another job to fulfil daily needs."

With no toilet in his house, Arsad and his family had to walk a long distance into the forest to go to the toilet. It was worse at night.

"We thought it was normal, even though we have to face our fear every time," says Kasniti, Arsad's wife.

Around 45 million of Indonesia's rural population, have to go to the toilet outdoors. Many are not aware that it can cause health problems and spread diseases. It can also cause diarrhoea, increasing the risk of malnutrition for children.

Arsad heard about hygiene and sanitation training run by Caritas Australia, through local partner, Laz Harfa. The Economic and Community-based Health Development Project encourages community members to work together to save money and build their own toilets. He learnt money management skills and became the leader of a local group.

The Caritas-supported project resulted in around 280 toilets being built.

"Most people at first did not understand about health. Now, they're willing to listen, and they have an easy way to build toilets," Arsad says. "We help each other."

Now, Arsad and his family are healthy. The community no longer has to go to the toilet in the field and has become happier. Arsad's part in helping has resulted in him being hailed a 'neighbourhood hero'.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Caritas Australia, with Laz Harfa, shared lifesaving messages on preventing the spread of coronavirus and distributed soap, masks and hygiene kits. They also set up a public rice barn where people could donate rice to share with other community members.

"Arsad set a good example and then slowly encouraged his neighbours to change for the better," said Imam Hidayat, Laz Harfa's Program Manager.

Arsad aspired to 'Be More' and in doing so, inspired his family and community to follow in his footsteps.

"Thank you so much, Caritas Australia," Arsad says. "I pray for the best for the Australians who have helped this program so there is progress in my community."

Source: [World Bank](#)