



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C 22nd & 23rd January 2022

Parish Priest:

Fr Trinh Nguyen
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Parish Secretary
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Dominique Hockey
Amelia Younane

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9am—3pm

Baptisms & Weddings
Please contact the Parish Office.

St Scholastica's Primary

School
Principal: Jenny Rohan
9808 7279
principal@ssbennettswood.catholic.edu.au

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Fr Trinh Nguyen, Jenny Rohan,
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Dear Parishioners

Church leaders often discuss young people and how they can get them to hold onto their faith and stay in church. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, young people are often filled with questions. They long to encounter Christ, and they want to have someone to walk with them in their questioning. They want a first-hand experience of God, and they want that experience to be connected to their every day life. Pope Francis reminds us that young people "are the now of God". They are also the "here and now of the Church" and hold a vital place in our community.

Therefore, helping young adults to see the parish as a place of community begins with welcoming them into an environment where they feel at home, where they share and dialogue about their ideas and questions, where they can share gifts in ministries, service, and leadership.

For this reason, we hope that our new established young adults group - J-Walkers Youth will help to form the young adults to appreciate the essence of what it means to be a Catholic community. That is, we are people of the table, people of the Eucharist who are sent forth to bring Christ's healing presence to the world.

Many ask the question "How can we encourage all of those young people out there, to join us here in our parish?" Instead, we should ask "How can we get all of the people in here, out there sharing the Good news?" So let us help our young people to navigate life's big questions together and to discover the place of God in their lives.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gerard Devaraj, Cecilia Clark, Joseph Tong and Rachel Cordeiro for courageously taking on the role as young adult leaders. It will be a challenging task and one that requires a lot of commitment on their parts. But I believe that with the support of the parish community and with

God's grace they will help other young disciples encounter Christ and to experience the joy of following Jesus. Please join me in praying this prayer for our young adult leaders to accompany one another in their faith journey.

A Prayer for Those Who Accompany Young Persons

Heavenly Father,
You call people from all walks of life
to You.

You have called me to walk with
young people and accompany them
on their journey of faith.

Nourish me by your Body and Blood.
Sustain me through your Body the
Church

Encourage me through Your Word.
Help me to be your hands, feet and
voice to all young people I meet.

I ask this in the name of your Son
Jesus Christ. Amen.

Fr Trinh Nguyen PP

J-Walkers Youth
@ ST. SCHOLASTICAS BENNETTSWOOD
7:30PM
EVERY 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH, STARTING FEB 2
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WEEKLY CALENDAR 2022

Monday 24 January 2022

No Service
07.30pm Vinnies Meeting - GA

Tuesday 25 January 2022

09.00am **NO Mass**
11.00am Funeral of John Corby
07.00pm Praise and Worship/Prayer Group - GA

Wednesday 26 January 2022 - OFFICE CLOSED
AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10.00am Novena
10.20am Rosary & Benediction
11.00am Mass

Thursday 27 January 2022

09.00am Mass followed by Rosary
07.30pm RCIA via Zoom

Friday 28 January 2022

9.00am Mass followed by Rosary

Saturday 29 January 2022

09.00am Mass followed by Confession/Adoration
10.00am Divine Mercy Chaplet
05.30pm Mass
07.30pm Alpha via Zoom (Vietnamese)

Sunday 30 January 2022

09.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
05.30pm Mass

ROSTERS

<u>Mass Time</u>	3rd Sunday of the Month 22/23 January 2022		
	<u>Covid Marshall</u>	<u>Readers/Musician Commentators</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
Sat 5.30pm		Melan Goh	Franklin Rozario
Sun 9.00am		Sylvia Chuah John Newman	Daniel Leong Dominic Coniglio
Sun 11.00am		April Lewis	Antonella Gucciardo Marie Serophim
Sun 5.30pm		Kristin Jabay	

ROSTERS

<u>Mass Time</u>	4th Sunday of the Month 29/30 January 2022		
	<u>Covid Marshall</u>	<u>Readers/Musician Commentators</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
Sat 5.30pm		Rachel Cordeiro	Judith Silvina Hung Tran
Sun 9.00am		Juancho Natividad Peter Westwood	Laurine Shane Dominic Coniglio
Sun 11.00am		Clare Gately	Barbara Schobben Willard Lewis
Sun 5.30pm		Marian Risandi	

Remembering Our Community

Sick

Pat Nitz, Peter Smyth, Kathleen Barr, Rachel Bransby, Nancy Simpson, Marian & Stephen McQuinn, Frances Murray, Joshua Muling, John Anderson, Sylvia Chuah, Bernice Collins, Ray Anderson

Recently Deceased

John Corby, Susan Jenkins



St Scholastica's parish community offers sincere condolences and prayers to Noela Corby and her family on the death of John Corby. May you rest in peace John.

Attending Mass - Points To Remember

- * You must check in with the QR code before entering the church.
- * You must sanitise your hands on entering and exiting the church.
- * You can only enter via the back of the church - not from the Gathering Area or Side Entrance Doors .
- * Masks must be worn at all times. Social distancing should be maintained at all times.
- * You will be required to sign in upon entry and show your vaccination certificate to appointed Covid Marshalls.
- * Volunteers need to submit a copy of their vaccination record to the parish office.
- * Working with Children Checks need to be up to date and if not submitted yet please could you attend to this as a matter of urgency.
- * If you administer Communion to the Sick you also need a police check, please come to the parish office and we can help with that.
- * If you have not signed the Code of Conduct please do so, copies available at the parish office or contact us and we can email you a copy.

We realise that there is a lot of requirements and we appreciate that this can be daunting but rest assured that we are more than happy to assist you and make it as painless as possible. We couldn't keep our parish thriving without all of your help and support and we thank you HUGELY for that!

Quote of the Week

"For the Servant of God every place is the right place, and every time is the right time." - *St Catherine of Siena*

Joke of the Week

I've been looking for these for 3 years!

A door-to-door salesman from a publishing house asked a lady if she owned a copy of the Bible. "I certainly do!" she replied with some pride. To his next question, did she read it regularly, she responded, "Oh, yes!" and sent her little daughter to get the Bible from the table drawer. As she showed it to the man, her spectacles fell from between the pages. Without thinking, she exclaimed, "Oh, here are my glasses! I've been looking for these for 3 years!"

St Scholastica's acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations.



NOTICEBOARD



Communion to the sick

Do you know anyone who is sick or housebound, who would like to receive a visit from Fr Think? Perhaps the sick/homebound person is feeling isolated from the parish community and would like to receive communion on a regular basis. Please phone the parish office on 9808 1006.

Baptism at St Scholastica's

It is a requirement of the parish that a Baptism information night must be attended prior to having your child baptised. Contact the parish office on 9808 1006 to make a booking into one of the monthly sessions. Next session: **Thursday 3rd February 2022** at 7:30pm in the Gathering Area.



Thanksgiving Program - Ways to contribute

- Envelopes (weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly)
- Credit cards
- Direct debits (set up by the parish office)
- Direct deposits to the parish account details can be found below.

Account Name: St Scholastica's Parish
BSB: 083 347
Account Number: 68681 8033
Reference: **Please use Envelope number**

You can set up your direct deposit or credit card contributions yourself. Please always use your envelope number. Or Amelia and Dominique can assist with this. Please pop in to see us, send us an email or call us, lots of ways to help you out.

When receiving your new credit card please contact us with the new details if you wish to continue to contribute.

We are thankful for all the support you give our parish especially during these challenging times.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 29 & 30 January 2022

First Reading: **Jer 1:4-5, 17-19**
Second Reading: **1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13**
Gospel: **Lk 4:21-30**



Poverty for us is a freedom

St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) thinks so. There was a beautiful article about her in Time magazine. She was asked about the materialism of the West. "The more you have, the more you are occupied," she contends. "But the less you have, the more free you are. Poverty for us

is a freedom. It is a joyful freedom. There is no television here, no this, no that. This is the only fan in the whole house...and it is for the guests. But we are happy. I find the rich poorer," she continues. "Sometimes they are more lonely inside...The hunger for love is much more difficult to fill than the hunger for bread...The real poor know what is joy." When asked about her plans for the future, she replied, "I just take one day. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not come. We have only today to love Jesus."— Is there anyone in this room as rich as Mother Teresa?

From today's Gospel reading

Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me....
God has sent me to proclaim....
a year acceptable to the Lord.

Reflection

Jesus tells his hearers, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke is reminding us we don't have to wait for some future time and place for God to come to set us free, it is happening "Today." The One anointed with the Spirit enables us now to be in right relationship with God and one another.

So, we ask ourselves

- Where in my life do I not feel free from fear, guilt, the past, etc?
- In faith, can I embrace the truth of Christ's words for me today: he has come to proclaim liberty?

St Scholastica's Parish is committed to creating a child safe culture that safeguards children and young people including the safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children and young people, children and young people with a disability, and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.



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St Scholastica's Catholic Primary School



To Live, To Learn, To Love

Tours are available on any school day throughout the year by appointment. Please telephone or email to make a time.

Come and see us in Action!

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**Pray for
the Unborn**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C - 22/23 January 2022**

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and
splendour, strength and honour in his
holy place.

First Reading: Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah
They read from the book of Law and they
understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before
the assembly, consisting of men,
women, and children old enough to
understand. This was the first day of the
seventh month. On the square before
the Water Gate, in the presence of the
men and women, and children old
enough to understand, he read from the
book from early morning till noon; all the
people listened attentively to the Book of
the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais
erected for the purpose. In full view of all
the people – since he stood higher than
all the people – Ezra opened the book;
and when he opened it all the people
stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord,
the great God, and all the people raised
their hands and answered Amen! Amen!;
then they bowed down and, face to the
ground, prostrated themselves before
the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of
God, translating and giving the sense, so
that the people understood what was
read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and
Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites
who were instructing the people) said to
all the people, 'This day is sacred to the
Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do
not weep'. For the people were all in
tears as they listened to the words of the
Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the
sweet wine, and send a portion to the
man who has nothing prepared ready.
For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not
be sad: the joy of the Lord is your
stronghold.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

Second Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-30

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

Together you are Christ's body; but each of
you is a different part of it.
Just as a human body, though it is made
up of many parts, is a single unit
because all these parts, though many,
make one body, so it is with Christ. In
the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews
as well as Greeks, slaves as well as
citizens, and one Spirit was given to us
all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any
one of its many parts. If the foot were to
say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not
belong to the body', would that mean
that it stopped being part of the body? If
the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye,
and so I do not belong to the body,'
would that mean that it is not a part of
the body? If your whole body was just
one eye, how would you hear anything?
If it was just one ear, how would you
smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate
parts into the body on purpose. If all the
parts were the same, how could it be a
body? As it is, the parts are many but
the body is one. The eye cannot say to
the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can
the head say to the feet, 'I do not need
you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of
the body that seem to be the weakest
which are the indispensable ones; and it
is the least honourable parts of the body
that we clothe with the greatest care. So
our more improper parts get decorated
in a way that our more proper parts do
not need. God has arranged the body so
that more dignity is given to the parts
which are without it, and so that there
may not be disagreements inside the
body, but that each part may be equally
concerned for all the others. If one part
is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one
part is given special honour, all parts
enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but
each of you is a different part of it. In the
Church, God has given the first place to
apostles, the second to prophets, the
third to teachers; after them, miracles,
and after them the gift of healing;
helpers, good leaders, those with many

languages. Are all of them apostles, or
all of them prophets, or all of them
teachers? Do they all have the gift of
miracles, or all have the gift of healing?
Do all speak strange languages, and all
interpret them?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to
the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have
undertaken to draw up accounts of the
events that have taken place among us,
exactly as these were handed down to
us by those who from the outset were
eyewitnesses and ministers of the word,
I in my turn, after carefully going over the
whole story from the beginning, have
decided to write an ordered account for
you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency
may learn how well founded the teaching
is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in
him, returned to Galilee; and his
reputation spread throughout the
countryside. He taught in their
synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been
brought up, and went into the synagogue
on the sabbath day as he usually did. He
stood up to read, and they handed him
the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling
the scroll he found the place where it is
written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given
to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good
news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back
to the assistant and sat down. And all
eyes in the synagogue were fixed on
him. Then he began to speak to them,
'This text is being fulfilled today even as
you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

Scripture Commentary for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

Appropriately, the Lectionary begins the reading of Luke's Gospel for the Sundays of this year (C) with a **Gospel** reading made up of both the Prologue to the entire Gospel (1:1-4) and the sermon in the synagogue of Nazareth (4:14-21) with which Jesus launches his public ministry.

The Prologue (1:1-4) sets forth the aim of the work. 'Theophilus', to whom it is addressed, stands in for believers of non-Jewish background. Luke writes to confirm them in their identity as believers, knowing that nothing will so promote assurance and confidence in engaging with the outside, non-believing world as a firm sense of identity. The forging of this identity begins for Luke way back with God's promises of salvation recorded in the Scriptures of Israel, above all with God's pledge to pour out the Spirit upon humankind in the messianic age (Joel 3:1-5; Acts 2:1-21). This time of promise might be called 'Act 1' of the drama of salvation. 'Act 2' gets under way as the promise begins to be fulfilled in the Spirit-filled ministry of Jesus, told in the Gospel of Luke. After his death, resurrection and ascension, the story continues ('Act 3') as the Acts of the Apostles tells how the Church, empowered by his Spirit, carries on his ministry of reconciliation and salvation beyond Israel to 'the ends of the earth' (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). In this way Luke aims to show in his two-part work how God's great vision for the rescue of humanity, originally promised in the scriptures of Israel, reaches out and grasps pagans such as Theophilus and brings them into the story. Theophilus and believers of all subsequent generations, right down to ourselves, are woven into it. It becomes our story as well.

In his inaugural sermon at Nazareth (4:12-21) Jesus announces that the divine action is now moving from promise to act. What is remarkable about the sermon is how short it actually is! Jesus reads a text from Isaiah 61:1-2, then simply proclaims: 'Today, this text is being fulfilled even as you listen.' End of sermon! The text contains so much – in essence, God's vision for humanity – that nothing more needs to be added. Enough simply to announce its realisation here and now: good news for the poor, release for captives, sight for the blind, the oppressed to be set free, a 'year' of the Lord's favour (lit. 'acceptance').

There are echoes here of the provision in the Law of Moses for the sabbatical year of Release (Deuteronomy 15) when all debts and forms of bondage (slavery) in Israel were cancelled. As proclaimed by Jesus, the 'release' in question refers in first instance to God's 'release' of human beings from the 'debt' of sin – though this does not mean that the original social justice sense is thereby excluded. It is interesting in fact to notice that one phrase in the text as quoted by Jesus – 'to let the oppressed go free' – is not from Isa 61:1-2 but from a related text, Isa 58:6. In the wider context (Isa 58:5-7) from which this phrase is taken the prophet is complaining in God's name about Israel's readiness to be scrupulous about the ritual requirement of fasting while neglecting the far more significant duties of hospitality and social justice. The phrase, then, would seem to imply that the messianic ministry of Jesus, to be continued in the Church, will fulfil the social justice program that God, according to Isaiah 58, required of Israel.

The text as quoted by Jesus comes to a climax with the announcement of a 'year of the Lord's acceptance': the unconditional 'welcome' or 'acceptance' into the hospitality of God, with all burden of sin simply cancelled. This unconditional offer of forgiveness stands behind all that Jesus will say and do throughout his ministry. The 'year' or 'day' (see 'Today ... ') of acceptance will become very long indeed, stretching beyond Jesus' own life to extend, through the ministry of the Church, till the end of time. We still live within the scope of that great 'Today'. Every Christian sermon, however well or badly, should continue the announcement we hear so briefly from Jesus today.

The **Second Reading** (1 Cor 12:12-30) relates to the Gospel in the sense that the gifts that flourish in a Christian community, in both their variety and their interdependence, manifest the Spirit in the Church continuing the great 'Today' of divine acceptance proclaimed by Jesus.

The **First Reading**, from Nehemiah (8:2-6, 8-10), sets off the Gospel in the sense that, like Jesus in Nazareth, Ezra the scribe reads out to the Israelites returned from Exile the Torah that confers identity upon them. They all end up in tears – a sign of conversion and 'homecoming' – not just to their land but to their identity as People of God.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

Since returning from graduate studies in Oxford in 1977, Brendan Byrne has been Professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia, of which he was Principal (1992-97). He was Rector of Campion College, Kew (1979-84) and a delegate to the 33rd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 1983. He was a visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, in 1993 and has also taught in East Asia and East Africa. He was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (Rome) (1990-96) and President of the Melbourne College of Divinity (2000-01). He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1999. Brendan Byrne is the author of nine books, edits the theological journal *Pacifica* and regularly gives workshops on scripture to clergy and parish communities.