

NOVEMBER 22 & 23 2008 – CHRIST THE KING – YEAR A

Issue Number 285

“I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD...”

The gospel set down today for the Feast of Christ the King highlights the care we should have for our neighbour. “I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.”

Today's gospel motivates me to endorse the work of the St Vincent de Paul in the parish. Home, prison and hospital visitation are challenging ministries but there is an energy within the local Conference that responds in a practical way to the needs of people within our parish who are “doing it tough”. Each week, along with Father Sunny their chaplain, our parishioners, who are members of the Society, do what the gospel asks. They feed the hungry, they clothe the naked; they visit the sick. They feel supported by you, our parishioners who assist them financially and in many practical ways. It could be that today's gospel motivates you to become involved in the work of the St Vincent de Paul. It is truly a gospel-centred ministry.

Last weekend we made an appeal on behalf of the bishop for the charitable works within the Parramatta Diocese. In a similar vein the DWF Pastoral Appeal is about today's gospel. We help our neighbour when we are generous with our wealth, particularly in these difficult financial times.

The DWF financially supports Aboriginal Catholic Services, Catherine Villa, Centacare, Emmaus Disable Persons, HIV/AIDS Ministry, Solo Parents Ministry, Sudanese Programme and a range of early-intervention and family support services at Holy Family Parish, Emerton/Mt Druitt. There are 46 agencies that receive support through the DWF. Likewise, last year the parish

supported the needy with hundreds of hampers distributed within our parish and to those in need in the Mt Druitt area. We supported Loyola Senior High School through the *Gift Beyond Christmas* scheme. Your response to the *Gift Beyond Christmas* envelopes helped unmarried mothers in Mt Druitt to complete high school.

Last Thursday many of you attended the parish Annual General Meeting. I outlined some of the initiatives the Parish Council will be undertaking next year. I spoke about the need for adequate signage on the property for school and church, and about

some work needing to be done in the parish office, the sacristy and the church. I had invited John King, a church architect and a former parishioner to come up with some solutions to the placement of the tabernacle in the church. He submitted three options. The first plan: leave the tabernacle where it is but replace the opaque glass door with a solid door to meet canonical requirements; place the tabernacle on the wall where the present paschal candle stand is or place the tabernacle on the back wall in a specially created niche and move the crucifix above it. I explained that all three plans had difficulties, but the general consensus was that placing the tabernacle in a newly-created niche in the back wall was the solution we could best live with. In fact I gained



CHRIST THE KING

the impression that there was unanimity at the meeting about this solution being the most appropriate.

At the AGM, Johan Nelis, Ken Fletcher, Paul D'Cruz, Julie Ferry and Nicolette Heidegger joined the Parish Council. Congratulations! Thanks to all those who were present. I thought it was a well worthwhile meeting.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. In the midst of a world smothered by secularism, this feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ's sovereignty over everything in life. This feast also marks the completion of the Church's liturgical year. Next Sunday begins Advent and the reading of Mark's Gospel. The readings over the past few weeks have dealt with issues of being prepared, staying ready, using our gifts well, to call us back to attention; to remember who we are and where we are heading. Today's gospel hits the nail on the head! The criteria for being worthy of the Kingdom is dependent on the service of our faith to our brothers and sisters most in need. What good is it if we spend so much energy in preparing and celebrating the liturgy and leave the celebration blind to the beauty of Christ present in the poor and needy? Here is a good rule to follow to keep check of where you are at: if the beauty inside the Church is not the same as outside the Church then there is more work to be done. *(Adapted from The Summit)*



DWF APPEAL Thank you to all who contributed so generously to the Diocesan Works Fund Appeal last weekend. The total amount required by the Diocese for each appeal in this parish is \$25164.00 of which approx. half has been donated. Envelopes are still available on the seats today for those who attended other parishes or who came unprepared last weekend. All donations are fully tax deductible.

STATUE OF OUR LADY WITH ST BERNADETTE

The Parish owns a beautiful statue of Our Lady with St Bernadette. Parishioners can borrow the statue for a week in 2009 by placing your names on the roster in the foyer. Book it now for a special occasion: anniversary, birthday etc, or as a thanksgiving for special graces or help received, or simply to encourage prayer in your home. Enquiries: Janina Mousley 9899 6060 or Alfred Jacobs 9894 8123.

NOVEMBER MASSES

November is a traditional time to remember those who have died. In this Parish there will be a Book of Remembrance on the sanctuary near the paschal candle. Those who wish to have their loved ones remembered are asked to include the names on the special November Mass offerings envelopes, and the Parish will add their names to the book. Only the names of recently deceased and anniversaries will be noted in the bulletin.

Parishioners are also invited to place a photo of any recently deceased parishioner or relative on a board which will be available in the Church foyer. Please place the name of the deceased person on the back of the photo together with details of the sender's name, address and phone number in case the photo is left behind or lost.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Inez and Harry Bott are hosting the Conference's social meeting next Sunday 30 November. Please call them to confirm attendance.

WANTED: Your Family Photo

Pope Benedict XVI wants a photo of your family to add to a massive mosaic of families from all over the world as part of the celebrations for the 6th World Meeting of Families to be held in Mexico City in January. Send a jpg file to photowmf2009@gmail.com including the name of the sender, family's last name, country of origin and city of residence. Pictures should not exceed 4MB and not be taken with a mobile phone.

EMPLOYMENT

The Ephpheta Centre is looking for a part-time Office Administration Assistant to work 3 days a week to be based at Flemington. Applications to Anthony Spata, Polding Centre, Level 5, 133 Liverpool St Sydney by December 5 or Anthony.spata@ado.syd.catholic.org.au. Ph: 9390 5317.

REFLECTION DAY FOR WOMEN

at Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa next Saturday 29 November from 9.45am to 3.00pm. BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Donation \$10. Bookings essential to 4773 8338.



Today's Readings

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 As the leaders of God's people have shown themselves to be self-serving, God's own self will now be the true shepherd, caring for all the people's needs.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28 Christ the King who destroys all the enemies of God and fulfils God's plan for all creation.

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46 The King judges all the nations; whatever is done to the least of his brothers and sisters is done to him.

Next week: First Sunday of Advent - Year B Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

Feast Day this Week

Sts Andrew Dung Lac & Companions- Mon, Nov 24

HOLY HOUR every Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

CHRISTMAS MASSES 2008

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5.00pm Children and Young Families' Mass
7.00pm - Family Mass
9.30pm - LIFE TEEN Youth Mass
12.00pm - Traditional Midnight Mass
(preceded by carols from 11.30pm)

Tuesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am – NO EVENING MASS



LIFE BEGINS AT 50: Cards/Mahjong this Friday 28 Nov in the Marian Centre at 7.30pm. Christmas Dinner Saturday 6 December at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall. 3 course meal \$48.00 per head. Final numbers and payment by Monday 1 December. See notice board for details. Contact Howard 98998983.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2008-2009: Please continue to pray for our parish families participating in this preparation process. Sessions resume Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd February, 2009.



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

On Sunday 14 December 2008 at 6.00pm, the annual Christmas Hamper Mass will be celebrated with Fr Peter McGrath. Once



again we are looking for your generous support of this Parish initiative to bring the spirit of Christmas into the homes of needy families who struggle to meet the basic necessities of life.

Firstly, we need your donation of hampers. A limited number of labels are available this weekend in the foyer. Return the hamper to the church on the weekend of 13/14 December 2008.

Please read the information on the notice board regarding the assembly of the hampers.

Secondly, we need your support in helping us manage the logistics of this appeal; in sorting the hampers within the Parish Hall and then distributing them to the families on Tuesday 16th December. A work sheet has been posted on the notice board in the church foyer. Please indicate the times you are available to help, or contact Maureen Scully on 9634 6925.

A GIFT BEYOND CHRISTMAS

Again this year an alternative to the hampers is offered. The alternative is called *A Gift Beyond Christmas* and gives parishioners an opportunity to help disadvantaged mature age students complete the HSC at Loyola Senior High, Mt Druitt.

You are asked to take an envelope for a disadvantaged mature age student from the Christmas tree at the front of the church. Please return these to the church on the weekend of the Hamper Mass, December 13/14.



COLLECT YOUR PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Those parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Programme by envelope are asked to collect your boxes containing the next 12 months supply of envelopes from the church foyer.

Anyone wishing to join the Programme is asked to leave their details on the clipboard provided.

THE CARE GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held after Mass on Friday 5 December. We provide Christmas lunch and a small gift for our seniors and we are hoping that some of the local Businesses within the Parish may be interested in supporting this event. If you can help with food or goods we would love to hear from you. Please call Susan: 9680 7504 or Marion:9659 9385.

BOOKSHOP NEWS The 2009 Columban Calendar is now available at the Bookshop for only \$7.00. Buy one of the best religious calendars in the world and you will be helping our missionaries at the same time.

Vinnies Christmas Cards are now available from the bookshop. This year a pack contains 10 cards and costs \$6.50. This is great value. Please support this major fund raiser for the Castle Hill conference to help with our

WATCH & WAIT: Advent Festival of Carols and Readings at Mount St Benedict Chapel, 449D Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills next Sunday 30 November at 4.00pm. Donation to Good Samaritan Ministries Kiribati. Phone 9484 6208 or email mtstbenedict@bigpond.com by Thurs 27 November for catering.



events and news for ALL parishioners ...

BIBLE STUDY with Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart: Our bible study concludes next weekend. All parishioners are welcome to join us in the Parish Hall following the Youth Mass.

events & news for Youth & Young Adults ...

Into LIFE for high school teens in yr 6-8: Is on this Monday night at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Join us for a fun night of friends and faith. Please bring along \$2 for chips and drink. New people are always welcome to join us!

LIFE Night for high school teens in yr 9-12: On again tonight - **'Mythbusters'** with special guest Anthony Saliba (seminarian). What do you believe in? Only two more nights left this year and it is never too late to check it out! In the Parish Hall straight after the Youth Mass, concluding at 8.30pm. See you there!

Post-WYD BIBLE STUDY for anyone aged 16 – 35 will finish up next weekend. Join us in the Parish Hall following the Youth Mass and be entertained by Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart. All welcome!

SUMMER CAMP 2009 – Information and registration forms for this awesome event are now available from the Church foyer. Grab one for you and your friends and join us for four days of sun, surf, friends, faith and fun!

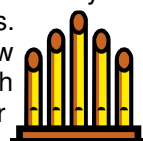
Life Teen produces fantastic **weekly podcasts** for free to help everyone get more out of our Sunday Mass. Listen to Mark 'Bible Geek' Hart give an insightful explanation and reflection on the upcoming mass readings. You download these or listen to them online. Subscribe now from **www.lifeteen.com** or search for 'lifeteen.com' at the iTunes store. An excellent resource for lectors.

www.lifeteen.com is a great website for teens and young adults – get the real answers and facts about our faith, along with the latest music and movie reviews and even just some random facts too!

www.lifeteenaustralia.com – for more info on what's on for youth and young adults at St Bernadette's or contact the Parish House on 9634 2622.

THANK YOU to Keith Taylor who has provided the Care Group with beautiful music throughout his time here each First Friday. Keith has moved to a new retirement village to be close to his family in Tamworth. We wish him much happiness.

Of course we are looking for a new organist! If you can help once a month please contact Marion on 9659 9385 or Susan on 9680 7504.



SPECIAL BEREAVEMENT MASS at the Mary MacKillop Chapel this Monday 24 November at 7.30pm to pray for our loved ones, relatives and friends who have died. The Chapel is located at Mount Street, North Sydney.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

Parish Staff

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mr Ian Pomeroy, Into LIFE Youth Minister
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9am, 10.30am & 6pm
 Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15 am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15 am
 Sat 8am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks; as soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

Please pray for Kevin Damyon (funeral Wednesday at 10am), Marie Wiley (funeral Tuesday at 10am), Victor John Carusi, Sr Eileen Markham and Jean Brittliff who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Max Yago (4th month), Mary Agius (Nov 26), Elizabeth Kennedy (Nov 23) and Barry Taylor (Nov 30).

Prayers for the Sick: Doreen Tongue and Shu Ying Ni.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – November 29-30

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Edy Kesuma S10	Sue Calabrese Amanda Aitken Daniel Mezger	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Colerio, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Richard & Cheryl Koen, Warren Hiser
7.30AM Tim Lee S6	Gerard Kearney Daryl Hill Audrey Markowskei	Rose & Peter Huby, Gerard & Geraldine Kearney, Carmel Moriarty, Joyan Fife
9.00AM Michael Lopez S7	Ann O'Brien Susan Moore Peter Hine	Brian & Jenny Blacklock, Neil Bone, Angela Crowe, Brian D'Arcy, Jeff Davis, Jocelyn Donovan, Jack Garcia, Yulia Hong
10.30AM Loe Lorenzo S8	Tim Lee Claire Vella Jo-Ann Campion	Buds Custodia, Campion, Rani and Cherani Fernando, Kerry Myers, Natalie Parmenter, Sandra & Johan Nelis, Rosary Roco

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - November 30

Adult Servers Alex Tomic James Madry	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Alex Aguilera Richard Tarlinton Darren Edwards Sean Finucane Maria Aguilera Tina Muscat Monica O'Callaghan Vanessa Muscat		Musos
Altar Preparation Josh Becker			Bass Daniel Ang Singers Aarti D'Cruz Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Erich Gracias Flor Monique O'Callaghan Veronica Sahabu
Lectors Jen Austin Lesley & Stef Musgrave	Projectionist Josh Becker	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera Paul Musgrave	Guitar Michael Smith Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton Sarah Ashton
Altar Servers S9	Gift Preparation Sean Finucane	Welcomers Alfonso & Maria Aguilera Monica O'Callaghan Darren Edwards	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Shane Robinson Rosalind Yeo FLOWER ROSTER Wedding	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Maria Mochnik, Katrina Habek, Adelina Tabila, Caroline Dharmadi COUNTING (1st Collection) Barry Halpin Gladys Tsang	COUNTING (2nd Collection) Debbie Fang, Eugenia Fidel, Steven Dowd, Barry Halpin, Bernie Good BOOKSHOP Jan Harrild / Carmel Moriarty / Christine Jenneke Sharene Lee / Bernadette Boulos
--	--	--