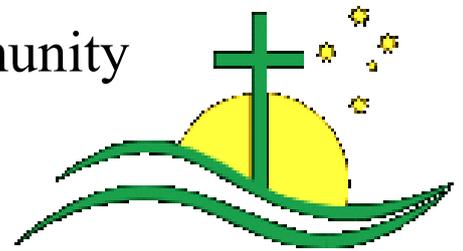




# St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

## One Family

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*13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 26-27 June, 2021*

### MORTALITY AND IMMORTALITY

During my vacation back home in Ireland, much of my time is spent visiting family members, neighbors and friends in the countryside. While Irish society has changed in many ways in recent decades, I particularly notice the impact that rapid advances in information technology is having on the day to day lives of rural communities. Everyone feels that impact, though naturally the younger generations are more at ease with it.

While the information revolution is rushing and pushing all of us towards the future, visiting my parents' grave is a journey down memory lane. Walking slowly through the country cemetery, the inscriptions on the headstones evoke memories not only of family members, but also of neighbors, relatives and parishioners who have gone on ahead to meet God face to face. Some of the tombstones are new or are well maintained, while others are neglected or have fallen into disrepair. None of this matters: as I look down and around, I sense the fleeting nature of the world that I once knew so well, and feel my own mortality in my gut.

However, moments later, as I turn my gaze upwards, my attention is consumed by the majestic tower rising out of the centre of the cemetery. Built from stone, this gracefully curved monument stretches more than 80 feet into the sky. Constructed a thousand years ago as part of a monastic settlement, it was a fortress during periods of political instability, pillage and plunder. It was also a look-out post with small windows high up in its walls, peering out like eyes in various directions across miles of fields.

This round tower, as it is referred to by the local people- seems, then, to stand guard not only over the many generations of the dead who are buried at its feet, but also over the living, spread far and wide across the surrounding countryside. It stands as a fixed reminder of their mortality, of that day when they too will lie down with their ancestors at its feet. However, having stood

among the tombstones, yet thrusting itself resolutely towards the heavens for a thousand years, it is also a silent witness to their immortality.

As I gaze on the round tower, I am reminded of Psalm 90. Addressing God, the author writes, *"You turn us back to dust, and say, 'Turn back you mortals.'* In your sight, a thousand years are like yesterday come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. "Having stood watch over the living and the dead for a thousand years, the round tower invites me to contemplate not just this past millennium, but the grand sweep of history. Against the backdrop of eras and eons, we human beings are indeed — as the writer of the Psalm expresses it — *"like grass that springs up in the morning, but by evening withers and fades."*

Reflecting on the fact that my days are numbered is not a morbid exercise, but rather an invitation to develop a larger perspective on myself and on the world. This leads me to consider what is important, valuable and permanent. The author of the psalm succinctly captures these sentiments in the form of a prayer request to God, *"Teach us to know the brevity of our lives so that we may gain wisdom of heart."*

Leaving the cemetery, the first thing I do is check my phone messages, and then I realize that I too am caught up in the frenzy of instant communication even in the midst of the peaceful countryside. Yes, anytime, anywhere, my smart phone enables me to access a vast amount of information. However, as I catch a final glimpse in my rear view mirror of the round tower standing among the tombstones, it continues to invite me to contemplate my own mortality and immortality in order to gain not more knowledge, but rather wisdom of heart.

*(Written by: Columban Fr Tim Mulroy)*

### Weekday Masses

**Monday**  
9am Mass

**Tuesday**  
9am Mass

**Wednesday**  
7pm Mass

**Thursday**  
9am Mass

**Friday**  
9am Mass

### Weekend Masses (booking is necessary)

**Saturday**  
6pm Mass

**Sunday**  
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass  
*(11am Mass will also be live streamed)*

*Please click on this link to follow this Sunday Mass*

<https://youtu.be/Dn1MoyHfZo4>

### Parish Reconciliation:

Saturdays 10am - 10.30am

<b>Priests:</b> Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP) Deacon Luke Bulley CP	<b>Passionist Community</b> Fr Brian Gleeson CP Fr Kevin Hennessy CP	<b>St Paul Apostle North Primary School</b> Ph. 9700 6068 Principal Mrs Mary Lucas	<b>St Paul Apostle South Primary School</b> Ph. 9700 3663 Principal Mr Paul Gleeson	<b>St John's Regional College</b> Ph. 9791 3366 Principal Mr Tim Hogan
<b>Parish Staff:</b> Gillian Velupillay (Bursar) Didi Karkas (Secretary)				

# Parish Calendar, News & Events

## Messages from Fr Brendan:

### 1. DEACON LUKE

As many of you would know Deacon Luke is due for ordination to the priesthood on Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup> in Brisbane. Following the ordination Luke will stay in Brisbane for a few days and have his celebratory Mass at the Passionist community in Oxley (Brisbane). Although Luke will be presiding at St Paul Apostle Masses on the weekend of July 10/11<sup>th</sup> the Parish community will officially celebrate his ordination on Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> at the 11.00am Mass. The Mass will be followed by a gathering in the hall. There will be a collection taken up after the Masses on this weekend (June 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>) and next weekend (July 3rd/4<sup>th</sup>) so that a gift can be purchased for Luke on behalf of the parish community. We intend to purchase a number of chasubles that will be a little more comfortable for Luke to celebrate the Eucharist.

### 2. ATTENDING MASS AND THE PROCEDURE

The current requirement to "book" in for Mass attendance is frustrating for us all and we all look forward to the time when this is no longer a necessity. In the interim please continue to book in and use the QR code if you are able. If you do reserve a place, please ensure you attend or at least contact us if plans change. It is very difficult to turn people away only to find they could have attended because others have not turned up. We are optimistic that our numbers for Mass will increase in the coming weeks but please remain patient with our monitors at the door as they are volunteers who have the best interests of the community at heart

### LUKE'S ORDINATION DETAILS

After many weeks of uncertainty, Deacon Luke is now in Brisbane to be ordained. The ordination will be held at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane on TUESDAY, 29 June 2021 at 7pm. If you wish to follow the Ordination Mass please click on this link <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/multimedia/web-cast/> We will keep him in our prayers

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thank you to all children and their parents who have attended the Introduction night last Thursday. After weeks of uncertainty and two cancellations, we are now back on track.

We hope you learn enough on the night to get you moving forward with your workbook. As explained earlier, you will have some classes at school (for those who attends Parish schools) after the holiday. Then we will meet again on TUESDAY, 27 July 2021 at 7pm in the church.

If you attend other schools, your attendance to After School Religious Education (ASRE) classes is compulsory. Classes will be on TUESDAYS 13 & 20 July from 4pm for about 1 hour each class.

### JUSTICE GROUP

The egg collection run by this group is still pending due to the changes in COVID rules. They will keep you updated with the new date to be announced soon.

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN is Wellsprings for Women offers services, supports and programs for women to improve education, employment, health and wellbeing and to live life safely and free from violence. It exists to help acceptance, healing and growth for isolated and vulnerable women, locally and from emerging communities. The running of their programs and activities are mainly depending on volunteers and donations from the communities. This year they are planning to have fundraising dinner on **THURSDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2021, 6.30pm** at Springvale Town Hall. If you wish to book, please contact 9701 3740 or ww

REFUGEE WEEK is 20-26 June, and the Refugee Council of Australia, of which the Office for Social Justice is a member, has run several events across the country. The theme for this year's Refugee Week is 'Unity' which focuses on the importance of joining together to support each other, particularly refugees, asylum seekers and forcibly displaced persons.

See this link to see all activities happening during this special week:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ERniSMwMUD8>

### Readings:

#### 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

Wis 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24;  
2 Cor 8: 7, 9, 13-15;  
Mk 5: 21-43

#### 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

Ezek 2: 2-5;  
2 Cor 12: 7-10;  
Mk 6: 1-6

[www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

### This weekend we pray for:

#### *Those whose sick*

Godfrey Joseph, Andrès, Rachel Fernando, Kirk Smaller, June Smaller, Michael Nguk Yan, Patrick Savelio, Camilla D'Rozario, Sr. Serafina, Andre Machado, Bryony, Findlay Lawless, Gaetan Clark, Ismael Bermudez, Jack Scanlan, Domenica Lombardi, Dwayne Edmonds, Anne Ghatt, Chase McCarthy, Irma Aiello, Graham Hawkesworth, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, those who are ill due to Coronavirus and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues

#### *Those who have died*

Regina Martyn, Vera Albuquerque, Meredith Almeida, Newton Lowe, Valerie Trindade, Betty Evans, Paul Bonnicci, Joyce Madeira, Marjori & Archie Ferreira, Deon Lawrence, Ourania Varveri, Thomas Phan, Margaret Le, Eric Anthony, Marshall Drego, Lucy Drego, Tome Antonion Noronha, Wilhem Schnoit, Herbert Tuider, Kurt Wagner, Louisa Mathews, Jimmy Mathews, Sandra Jackson, intention of the giver, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

#### *May they rest in peace*



We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

