

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME(A)

3RD AUGUST 2014

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE



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NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

3RD – 10TH AUGUST 2014

Today we begin the 17th National Vocations Awareness Week, an initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops since 1997, to encourage us to reflect on, and give thanks for God's call of each of us – our "*vocation*".

This Sunday we focus on each person's vocation, especially our primary vocation – the call to holiness.

Something to think about:

If I am already committed to a particular vocation, such as marriage, single life, Priesthood or Religious Life, how can I best continue to live out this call of God in my daily life?

For our children and Youth – what can we do to support and encourage them to choose the path and vocation that is best for them?

For more information about National Vocations Awareness Week, visit www.catholicpriesthood.com

HOW POPE FRANCIS FELT THE CALL OF GOD

On Sept. 21, last year Pope Francis marked the 60th anniversary of a secret encounter that not only changed the trajectory of one young chemist's life, but eventually ecclesiastical and world history.

On Sept. 21, 1953, a 16-year-old boy named Jorge Bergoglio was planning to go out to celebrate with friends an Argentinian national holiday called Students' Day, which is always held on the first day of spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

Jorge decided to start the holiday by going to pray at his parish church dedicated to St. Joseph.

He likely was unaware that, in the Church's liturgical calendar, Sept. 21 is the feast of St. Matthew, the despised tax collector who, despite his sins, was nevertheless shockingly summoned by the Lord to become one of his apostles.

When Jorge arrived at church, he saw a priest he didn't recognize but who seemed to radiate holiness. He decided to approach him and asked him to hear his confession.

We don't know what Jorge said to the priest or what the priest said in response. But we do know that that confession totally changed not only the teenager's plans for the day, but for the whole course of his life.

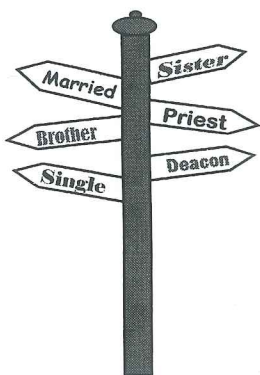
Meeting with 200,000 members of ecclesial movements in May for the vigil of Pentecost, Pope Francis shared some of his memories of this pivotal event in his vocation story.

"For me, this was an experience of encounter: I found that Someone was waiting for me. Yet I do not know what happened. I can't remember. I do not know why that particular priest was there, whom I did not know, or why I felt this desire to confess. But the truth is that Someone was waiting for me. He had been waiting for me for some time. After making my confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like a voice or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Sixty years later, Pope Francis still seems astonished at the significance of this encounter, the reality of a God who awaits us with the love of the father of the Prodigal Son, anticipating his beloved child's return.

"We say we must seek God; go to him and ask forgiveness," Pope Francis told the members of the ecclesial movements in May. "But when we go, he is waiting for us; he is there first! In Spanish, we have a word that explains this well: primerear — the Lord always gets there before us; he gets there first; he is waiting for you! To find Someone waiting for you is truly a great grace. You go to him as a sinner, but he is waiting to forgive you. ... When we seek him, we discover that he is waiting to welcome us, to offer us his love. And this fills your heart with such wonder that you can hardly believe it, and this is how your faith grows — through encounter with a Person."

(Sourced from an article by Fr. Roger Landry in the National Catholic Register)



All of us have been invited "to follow Him" when we were Baptised. As we grow in faith and live our lives the Lord is constantly inviting us to follow Him. How best can each of us live out this call of God – is it in marriage and family life?; is it as the life of a single person?; is it as a Priest or consecrated Religious?

During this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for each other that with God's help we may live our vocation with joy and fidelity and let us pray for young people as they discern their vocation in life.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE: *Congratulations to Frank and Nalda Sciuto* who last Thursday celebrated 60 years of married life. Frank and Nalda were married in St. Joseph's Church on 31st July 1954 by Fr. Tom Murphy. We join their family and many friends in our congratulations on this important milestone in their lives and wish them God's blessings for many more years of happiness and good health.

HOW DO YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? HOW DO YOU BECOME A CATHOLIC?

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH is providing an opportunity **today (Sunday 3rd August)** at **10.30AM** at the **Presbytery** for interested youth and adults to find out more about preparing for Baptism or how to become a Catholic.

If you know someone who may be interested in inquiring Baptism or becoming a Catholic come with them to the Presbytery at 10.30AM today (Sunday) or contact Fr. Brian for more information. Thank you for your interest and your efforts to welcome people into our faith family, the Church.

DECEASED: **Silvano Zorzi** (Husband of Maria, Father of Tiziana, Adrian & Ray – Funeral Arrangements to Announced), **Lorraine McQualter** (Sister & Sister-In-Law of Shirlee & Don Russell), **Ron Lawson**, **Andrena Gianini**, **Evelina Piovesan**, **Edward Longhurst**

TO REMEMBER: Carmelo Torrisi & DFM, Nunzio Urzi & DFM, Steve Mihalka, Augustino Tolone, Salvatore & Maria Concetta Ricca, Nunzio & Sarina Fichera, Sam, Carmelo & Giuseppina Cristina & DFM, Giovanni & Angela Puglisi, Fr. Mark Cosgrove

FOR THE SICK: Norm Wren, Celide Bau, Cathy Sullivan, Linda Vinciguerra, Stella Bayley, Alyssa Coxen, Ev Thompson, George Brac, Debra Micallef, Margaret Ballinger, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

RITUAL FOR CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST

This week the children will gather around the Table of The Word to see and touch the Lectionary (the Book continuing the Scripture readings used at Mass) and the Book of the Gospels, and for prayer.

Each will be presented with a special Bookmark

reminding them that the Lord speaks to us, especially in the Scriptures.

The children who were not enrolled last week will also present their names on the "loaf of bread" image to be placed on the Notice Board in the Church Foyer.

This is the second week of the children's program of preparation for their First Communion on 24th August.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: At the **8.30AM Mass today** at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word, children (Primary School age) are invited to go to Children's Liturgy held in the Parish Centre adjacent to the Church to reflect on this Sunday's Gospel and enjoy some activities appropriate for their age. **The dates for Children's Liturgy in the months ahead are 7th September and 12th October.**

THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS giving a record of your contributions to the Thanksgiving Programme for the quarter April – June 2014, as well as a record of your contributions for the whole financial year are available in the foyer today for those who have not yet collected their Statement. **Please remember to collect your Quarterly Financial Statement before or after Mass.**

FR. LINO'S DIAMOND JUBILEE DVD: A non-professional DVD is available on Fr. Lino's Jubilee Mass and Luncheon. DVDs are being made in Toowoomba. Cost \$20. Please place you name and number of copies on the sheet in the foyer. Numbers to be finalised by 16/17 August.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL: Thank you for the financial contributions parishioners to this yearly appeal to assist our missionaries in 160 countries and in remote Australian parishes. The appeal this year focuses on the small African nation of Rwanda where one of the world's worst genocides took place twenty years ago. Catholic Mission is supporting the Catholic Church in Rwanda bringing healing to so many who lost loved ones and need practical, spiritual and emotional support.

Please take time to reflect before the posters on display in the foyer.

Envelopes for the Appeal are still available in the foyer. Thank you for your past generous support.

CATHOLIC LEADER: The Catholic Leader is on sale each week - \$2 a copy. The weekly sales vary – some weeks it sells out, at other times many copies are unsold. And sometimes copies are taken but not paid for! This is just a friendly but necessary reminder *DON'T FORGET TO PAY!!* Otherwise, the St. Vincent de Paul Society which is the Parish agent for the sale of the Leaders incurs a significant loss. Thank you for your attention to this. It would be nice if all copies were sold each week.

THIS WEEK:

MASSES: MON: 7AM; TUES: 7AM; WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9.15AM; FRI: 5.30PM
SAT: 7AM; **SAT VIGIL:** 6.30PM; **SUN:** 8.30AM

FEAST DAYS: MON: *ST. JOHN VIANNEY*; WED: *THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD*; FRI: *ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP*

ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP – FEAST DAY FRIDAY 8TH AUG.

Born 15th January 1842 Fitzroy, Melbourne – eldest child of Scottish immigrants.

1866 Mary co founded (with Fr. Julian Tension Woods) Australia's first Religious order, the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Mother Mary of the Cross died at her Mount Street Convent, North Sydney on 8th August 1909.

She was **Beatified** in Sydney by Pope John Paul II on 19th January 1995 and **Canonised** Australia's first Saint by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome on 17th October 2010.

FROM THE WRITINGS OF MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP



My name in religion is Mary of the Cross.

No name could be dearer to me, so I must endeavour not to deserve it – for I cannot – but at least I must try not to disgrace it. (1867)

I cannot only remember dimly the things that were said to me but the sensation of the calm, beautiful presence of God I shall never forget.

(Referring to the time of her excommunication 1871.)

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MEETING: MON: 7.30PM K.S.C.