

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B

2ND AUGUST 2015

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Brian Connolly Ph. 46812157 Fax 4681 4107

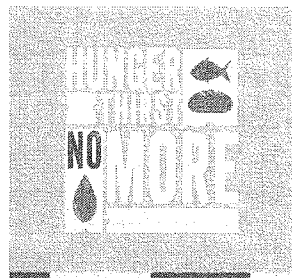
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NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

2ND – 9TH AUGUST 2015

Today we begin the 18th 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, 2013, Pope Francis recalled and shared with the world something very personal from his life as a teenager. It was the 60th anniversary of an encounter that changed the direction of his life of this young student.

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.

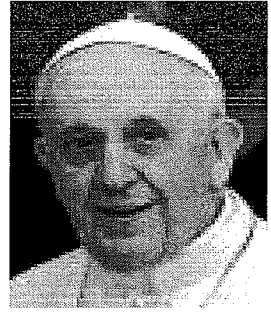
When Jorge arrived at church, he saw a priest he didn't recognize but who seemed to radiate holiness. He decided to approach him and asked him to hear his confession.

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.

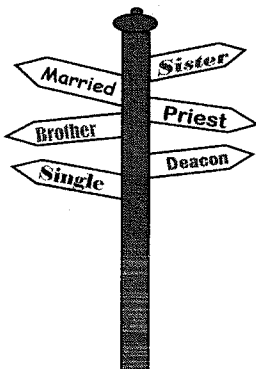
"For me, this was an experience of encounter: I found that Someone was waiting for me. Yet I do not know what happened. I can't remember. I do not know why that particular priest was there, whom I did not know, or why I felt this desire to confess. But the truth is that Someone was waiting for me. He 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 us! 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.

RITUAL FOR THE CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FIRST EUCHARIST

The lesson this first week of the children's preparation focused on "*celebrations*" which are an important part of our lives and families, and also important in our faith family, the Church. *At Mass each week we celebrate Jesus' presence with us in His Word and in the Eucharist.*

At Mass this weekend, the children will receive "An Invitation" to join the Parish family at our weekly celebrations of the Eucharist.

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

This coming week is the second week of the program of preparation for first Holy Communion on 30th August.

THE QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS giving a record of your contributions to the Thanksgiving Programme for the quarter April – June 2015, 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 last week. Some of the Planned Giving Envelopes for this new financial year also are still to be collected. **Please remember to collect your Quarterly Financial Statement before or after Mass.**

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ken McQualter (Bendigo: Brother & Brother-In-Law of Shirlee & Don Russell),

Sarah Leonardi (Canberra: Cousin of the Leonardi Family),

Raymond Burns (Son of Edward & Grace, brother of Bob, Marilyn Holder, Lorraine Fragale, Lynette Dunford & Russell – Graveside Funeral Liturgy: Tuesday 4th August 10AM),

Lina Tagato, Bruna Orsetto, Fr. Greg Jordan SJ, Joyce Fossey, Beverley Gacia, Edward (Ted) Monaghan, Fr. John (Jack) Clancy

TO REMEMBER: Joan Shannon, Lino Marini, Gaetano & Caterina Fogliani, Fr. Mark Cosgrove

FOR THE SICK: Karen Anderson, Kay Beutel, Thomas Lamb, Ned Sparksman, Gloria Keats, Marie Hindmarsh, Juan Pereira, Lisa Hopgood, Greg Keen, Trish Hancock, Julia Johnstone, Joe Costanzo, Danny Mahoney, Linda Vinciguerra, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

THANK YOU

for your prayers and support over the past five months.

I am currently in hospital in preparation for a transplant

this Friday 7th August.

Karen Anderson

THIS WEEK:

MASSSES: MON: 7AM; TUES: 7AM ; WED: 11.45AM; THURS: 9.15AM; FRI: 5.30PM; SAT: 7AM; SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.30PM; SUNDAY: 8.30AM

FEAST DAYS: TUES: ST. JOHN VIANNEY; THURS: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD; SAT: ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP

MEETINGS: TUES: 7.30PM K.S.C.; WED: 4.30PM BALL COMMITTEE

NEXT WEEKEND: BAPTISM: There will be two infants Baptised during the 8.30AM Mass next Sunday (9th August). Parents wishing to have a child Baptised need to contact the Parish Office or Fr. Brian well in advance to allow time for preparation. Baptisms are celebrated usually once a month during the 8.30AM Sunday Mass.

NOTICES: CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL: Thank you for your financial contributions to this yearly appeal to assist our missionaries in 160 countries and in remote Australian Parishes. The Appeal this year highlighted the work of Catholic Mission in the Island of Madagascar off the Coast of Africa and the help given to Sr. Rose and her Catholic School.

Envelopes are still in the foyer for the Appeal. Read about the work of Sr. Rose bringing physical and spiritual water to the children and their families. To date \$4,135 has been contributed. Thank you for your generous support.

INTERESTED IN BEING BAPTISED / BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Soon will be the time for older youth and adults
to begin preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation
or to be received into full communion with the Church next Easter.

***PLEASE CONTACT FR. BRIAN IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MAY BE
INTERESTED. INQUIRIES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND WITHOUT OBLIGATION.***

CHILDREN FOR THE SACRAMENTS 2015-2016

Now is the time for parents of children in Year three or older to plan
to prepare their child for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year,
and Confirmation and First Communion next year.

Please contact Fr. Brian if you need advice or guidance.

Contact the Parish Office that this is your intention
so that all families can be notified.

COMING UP:

LIGHT THE NIGHT LEUKAEMIA FUNDRAISER

From **5PM, Saturday 19th September 2015** at the **CF White Oval**, you are invited to join the **Light The Night walk around the Oval** (600 metres or ½ km) with lanterns – gold to remember a loved one, white for your own journey or blue to show you care. Food, bar, drinks, entertainment, multi draw raffle. All funds assist the Leukaemia Foundation to support families affected by blood cancer. Register at <http://lightthenight.org.au/> and enter Stanthorpe's postcode. Contact Angie Sims 0427 670 671 for more information.

ST. JOSEPH'S FETE AND 140 YEAR CELEBRATIONS – Saturday 31st October. Contact Angie Sims on 4681 5905 if you have any books you no longer require or can assist with potted plants and seedlings.