

24/25 October 2020-Year A 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and His strength; constantly seek His face.

Responsorial Psalm: I love You, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: We will ring out our joy at Your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

**Dear Parishioners,
We Celebrate the Thirtieth Sunday of the Church Year.**

1. God's Breaking Point

Every parent, no matter how patient, has a breaking point. Even a parent who can tolerate endless noise and outrageous disobedience from his children will finally blow up when his breaking point is reached. In the First Reading, God tells us what his breaking point is. It has to do with those people who are aliens and orphans.

Let us join with God in losing all patience with those who afflict God's hopeless or homeless children.

Some people live as strangers in a strange land; they are aliens in their own communities. And some people lack love and care. They are like orphans, alone, without a home.

You might suppose that these aliens and orphans are easy to recognize. They are the ones without money, or the ones without a family, you might think. But there you would be mistaken. People rarely are so transparent. There can be aliens and orphans among the rich and powerful, just as there can be much loved and cared for people who live among the poor. You just don't know.

But here is what we do know, from the First Reading. If something you do makes someone, who lives as an orphan or an alien, cry to God in their suffering, God will lose all patience with you. He will blow up at you, and sooner or later you will know what it is to have made God angry at you. This ought to be a very alarming prospect to us.

But what is the point of this thought? Is it to make us always anxious and scared of God? No, of course not! What good would we be to anyone in that condition?

The point is rather to make us watchful of the way in which we treat any one of God's children. Let us look at each person who crosses our path, each one, rich or poor, obnoxious or likeable, as under the protection of the God who is Father in Heaven to us all. Let us make sure that we do not cause any person to cry to God by what we say or do to him. And let us join with God in losing all patience with those who afflict God's hopeless or homeless children.

Then what we will know is not the wrath of the Lord, but the joy that comes from being with God in his love.

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH CHURCH 105 ELEVENTH AVENUE AUSTRAL 2179

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Administrator

Deacon Paul Naggar

Secretary: Cheryl McKell

House Manager: Cathy Sanders

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College**

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Sacramental Life

Celebration of the Eucharist:

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigils: 4.30pm & 5.30pm

(Includes Children's Liturgy during

School Term)

Sunday - 7.30am & 9am

(Includes Children's Liturgy during

School Term)

Thursday- Communion Service

9am

Masses: Tuesday - 7.30am

Wednesday - 7.30am

Friday - 7.30am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday

3.45 pm- 4.15 pm

Baptisms & Marriages:

By appointment at Presbytery

Anointing: Every 2 months -

check bulletin for dates

Sick Calls: Any time - day/night.

Funeral Masses: In Co-operation

with Funeral Directors.

On a mission to inspire others

Chap Kene Onwukwe at the Joint NSW Police/ADF border control headquarters in Albury, NSW.
Photo: Leut-Cmdr John Thompson



A former missionary is now playing a vital role on Operation COVID-19 Assist, Leut-Cmdr John Thompson reports.

GROWING up in Nigeria, West Africa, Chap Kene Onwukwe never thought he would work in the ADF.

The padre arrived in Australia as a Catholic missionary 12 years ago — one of three Nigerians selected to be a missionary in Tasmania.

He said the church has been a central part of his life for as long as he can remember.

“My family and I are from the Igbo tribe, who are mostly Christians, so Christianity and living a religious life is an important part of our cultural heritage,” Chap Onwukwe said.

“We would help out at church on the weekends and eventually my mother encouraged me to go into the seminary.”

Chap Onwukwe said his journey into the Australian Army started after he moved to Sydney at the end of his missionary activities in Hobart.

“I moved to Sydney to study a Master’s in Education Psychology where I met [long serving Army] Chap

Robert Hayes, who introduced me to the opportunity to serve God in the military,” he said.

“The rest is history.”

Chap Onwukwe is supporting ADF personnel helping NSW Police at border checkpoints.

Commander Operation COVID-19 Assist on the NSW/Victoria border Lt-Col Andrew White said Chap Onwukwe had played a vital role in his team.

“We have many young soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen on this operation,” Lt-Col White said.

“Chap Onwukwe has been able to talk, comfort and inspire many of these personnel and provide the important emotional, psychological and spiritual support.”

Chap Onwukwe said serving in the military was a life-changing experience.

“I love spending time with these impressive men and women. I am ever thankful to God for this amazing opportunity,” he said.

2. Thank You from Fr Kene

Thank you all for your welcome and prayers for my second missionary journey in this parish which officially started on Tuesday 13 October, 2020 (two days after my birthday). I thank the former parish priest, Fr Bob Hayes who has been a mentor to me, not only in the pastoral work of the Archdiocese but also in the Chaplaincy work of the Australian Defence Force.

It is an honour to thread on the path where the former pastors of this parish have threaded. From 1965 when this parish was elevated as an independent parish and from its first parish priest, Fr Joe Weaver to the immediate past, Fr Bob, I have recognised some amazing developments the parish have undergone through the wonderful leadership of those former pastors. I count on your support as we continue to follow their footsteps in witnessing to the Risen Lord in this part of the Archdiocese.

The challenges of COVID-19 have somewhat delayed plans and projects as the whole world are grappling with the costs and the 'new normal' the pandemic has put us into. In our parish, it has delayed movements and caused changes. Check the bulletin for the times and days for the weekday masses which will continue till December.

I will do my best to adjust to important programs and events already scheduled in the parish until the end of the year.

I will also make every effort to familiarise myself with groups and activities in the various ministries of the parish to know their concerns and how to support. Last Tuesday, I met with the Acolytes and we all noted that we need more Acolytes.

Please I encourage the adult males in the parish to consider joining this ministry. Together we can achieve great things.

Thanks too to those who joined in the Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Rosary to the parish. Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of God and our mother. It is a wonderful blessing for us when she intercedes for us and our families.

The month of November is here again and, in that month, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us with the sign of faith. November mass envelopes are on the tables at the church entrance. Please take the envelopes, write the names of your deceased loved ones and drop them at the parish office or in the collection plates during offertory in the Masses or you can give it directly to me.

In the gospel this weekend, Jesus gives us the two greatest commandment – love of God and love of neighbour. Let us reflect on how our love for God can be made manifest in our love and support to our fellow human beings including our departed brothers and sisters.

God bless.

Fr Kene Onwukwe

3. Booking in for Mass

Due to families in Year 3 at the College booking in to attend weekend Mass as they begin their preparation for their First Holy Communion, parishioners are asked to ring Cheryl, the Parish Secretary, on Tuesday or Thursday when she is in the office to book a Mass.

All Parishioners are reminded that not booking may mean that I will not be able to admit you into the Church, if the Church has reached its maximum number. Please do not come to mass unless you have booked.



4. Columban Calendars

The Columban Calendar is a work of the Columban Fathers and is a fundraiser for their missions, especially in South America.

The Calendar has a page a month and a religious painting for each month.

It indicates Feast Days and Sundays. I recommend it to you. Please leave monies on the plate next to the calendars. Still only \$10.00.

5. Change to Weekday Mass Times

Fr Kene will be changing weekday Mass times until the end of the year. New Mass times will be Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday at 7.30am Communion Service on Thursday at 9am.



6. Sacrament of Reconciliation

Some families have not returned due to illness or worries about COVID.

Again, I encourage those families to streamline Mass either from St Mary's Cathedral at 10.30am Sunday or Woolongong at 9.30am on Sundays. In this way the family or individual is giving time to God and their own spiritual life. But, TV Mass is not the answer to attending the community and joining in Sunday worship in hearing the Word of God and then, encountering Jesus in Eucharist.

If families or family members have become lazy due to being away from worship then, before receiving the Eucharist in good conscience they should go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving the Eucharist.

If families can go to work, go to school or go shopping, we can return to our faith and practise it!

May God Bless You

Fr Kene



CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER

26-31 October

Matalena Patolo, Julianna,
Lila, Beka

2-7 November

Brianna, Raquel, Olivia



READERS ROSTER

24/25 October

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Natasha Steimbesser

Readers:

Natasha Steimbesser: 1st Reading

Marcelo Steimbeisser: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Pasqualina Catanzariti

Readers:

Pasqualina Catanzariti: 1st Reading

Margaret Cvetko: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Maria Zucco

Readers:

Maria Zucco: 1st Reading

John-William Fisher: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

31 October/ 1 November (All Saints)

Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm

Commentator: Maja Simat

Readers:

Maja Simat: 1st Reading

Teresa Calarco: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 7.30am

Commentator: Linda Katsibras

Readers:

Linda Katsibras: 1st Reading

Liz Habib: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful

Sunday: 9am

Commentator: Tessie Christophers

Readers:

Tessie Christophers: 1st Reading

Nicole Hext: 2nd Reading & Prayers of Faithful



Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Roster

24/25 October

Saturday Vigil

David Casha & Veronica Casha



Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Pam Ajkay & Frances Musso

31 October/ 1 November

Saturday Vigil

Sarah Casha & Margaret De Vries

Sunday 7.30am

Virginia Romeo & Pasqualina Catanzariti

Sunday 9am

Faye Palamara & Karen Power

ACOLYTES ROSTER

24/25 October

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

31 October/ 1 November

Saturday Vigil

Gerry Crescini

Sunday 7.30am

George Ajkay

Sunday 9am

Anthony Zanetic

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



ON HOLD DUE TO COVID 19

NURSING HOME ROSTER

September

TBA

October

TBA



POPE FRANCIS COLUMN



It is a gift to pray together. I greet all of you cordially and with gratitude, especially my brother, His Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and dear Bishop Heinrich, President of the Council of the Evangelical Church of Germany.

The passage from the account of the Lord's Passion that we have just heard comes shortly before Jesus' death. It speaks of the temptation he experienced amid the agony of the cross. At the supreme moment of his sufferings and love, many of those present cruelly taunted him with the words: "Save yourself!" (Mk 15:30). This is a great temptation. It spares no one, including us Christians. The temptation to think only of saving ourselves and our own circle. To focus only on our own problems and interests, as if nothing else mattered. It is a very human instinct, but wrong. It was the final temptation of the crucified God.

Save yourself. These words were spoken first "by those who passed by" (v. 29). They were ordinary people, those who had heard Jesus teach and who witnessed his miracles. Now they are telling him, "Save yourself, come down from the cross". They had no pity, they only wanted miracles; they wanted to see Jesus descend from the cross. Sometimes we too prefer a wonder-working god to one who is compassionate, a god powerful in the eyes of the world, who shows his might and scatters those who wish us ill. But this is not God, but our own creation. How often do we want a god in our own image, rather than to become conformed to his own image. We want a god like ourselves, rather than becoming ourselves like God. In this way, we prefer the worship of ourselves to the worship of God. Such worship is nurtured and grows through indifference toward others. Those passers-by were only interested in Jesus for the satisfaction of their own desires. Jesus, reduced to an outcast hanging on a cross, was no longer of interest to them. He was before their eyes, yet far from their hearts. Indifference kept them far from the true face of God.

Save yourself. The next people to speak those words were the chief priests and the scribes. They were the ones who had condemned Jesus, for they considered him dangerous. All of us, though, are specialists in crucifying others to save ourselves. Yet Jesus allowed himself to be crucified, in order to teach us not to shift evil to others. The chief priests accused him precisely because of what he had done for others: "He saved others and cannot save himself!" (v. 31). They knew Jesus; they remembered the healings and liberating miracles he performed, but they drew a malicious conclusion. For them, saving others, coming to their aid, is useless; Jesus, who gave himself unreservedly for others was himself lost! The mocking tone of the accusation is garbed in religious language, twice using the verb to save. But the "gospel" of save yourself is not the Gospel of salvation. It is the falsest of the apocryphal gospels, making others carry the cross. Whereas the true Gospel bids us take up the cross of others. Save yourself. Finally, those who were crucified alongside Jesus also joined in taunting him. How easy it is to criticize, to speak against others, to point to the evil in others but not in ourselves, even to blaming on the weak and the outcast! But why were they upset with Jesus? Because he did not take them down from the cross. They said to him: "Save yourself and us!" (Lk 23: 39). They looked to Jesus only to resolve their problems. Yet God does not come only to free us from our ever-present daily problems, but rather to liberate us from the real problem, which is the lack of love. This is the primary cause of our personal, social, international and environmental ills. Thinking only of ourselves: this is the father of all evils. Yet one of the thieves then looks at Jesus and sees in him a humble love. He entered heaven by doing one thing alone: turning his concern from himself to Jesus, from himself to the person next to him (cf. v. 42).

Dear brothers and sisters, Calvary was the site of a great "duel" between God, who came to save us, and man, who wants to save only himself; between faith in God and worship of self; between man who accuses and God who excuses. In the end, God's victory was revealed; his mercy came down upon the earth. From the cross forgiveness poured forth and fraternal love was reborn: "the Cross makes us brothers and sisters" (BENEDICT XVI, Address at the Way of the Cross at the Colosseum, 21 March 2008). Jesus' arms, outstretched on the cross, mark the turning point, for God points a finger at no one, but instead embraces all. For love alone extinguishes hatred, love alone can ultimately triumph over injustice. Love alone makes room for others. Love alone is the path towards full communion among us.

Let us ask the crucified God to grant us the grace to be more united and more fraternal. When we are tempted to follow the way of this world, may we be reminded of Jesus' words: "Whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will save it" (Mk 8:35). What is counted loss in the eyes of the world is, for us, salvation. May we learn from the Lord, who saved us by emptying himself (cf. Phil 2:7) and becoming other: from being God, he became man; from spirit, he became flesh: from a king, he became a slave. He asks us to do the same, to humble ourselves, to "become other" in order to reach out to others. The closer we become to the Lord Jesus, the more we will be open and "universal", since we will feel responsible for others. And others will become the means of our own salvation: all others, every human person, whatever his or her history and beliefs. Beginning with the poor, who are those most like Jesus. The great Archbishop of Constantinople, Saint John Chrysostom, once wrote: "If there were no poor, the greater part of our salvation would be overthrown" (On the Second Letter to Corinthians, XVII, 2). May the Lord help us to journey together on the path of fraternity, and thus to become credible witnesses of the true God.

