

**12th September 2021
Perpetual Day of
Remembrance Sunday**

ALL SAINTS PARISH BLACKBUTT SOUTH
Faith Communities of Adamstown, Cardiff, Kotara

*Listening to God's Word
Growing in Faith*



Reaching out to All

WEBSITE

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Secretary

Louise Byron

Home Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9.00am - 3.00pm

Closed 12 noon - 1.00pm

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Columba's Adamstown

St Kevin's Cardiff

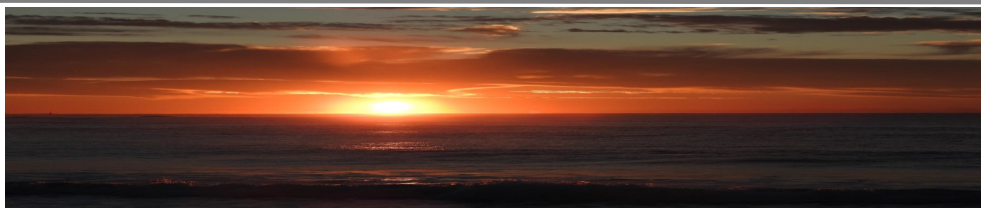
St James' Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

St Pius X Adamstown

St Paul's Booragul

Links are on our Website



***Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday
Shine the Light of Christ***

As part of Lina's Project, Bishop Bill Wright established September 15 as a Perpetual Day of Remembrance throughout the diocese. Such a day holds before us our history of child sexual abuse and the reality of its continual unfolding in the lives of those directly and indirectly affected.

The intention is that this day be marked in a variety of ways including survivor led events which will develop from year to year. It is hoped these events provide an opportunity for all of us to stand with survivors.

It is equally important that the Church mark this day with prayer, ritual and worship. As a people of faith, commissioned by Jesus to live in remembrance of him, we know the importance and power of remembering. Our remembering not only functions to ensure that such abuse never happens again. More than that, our liturgical remembering is permeated with the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery becoming the source of our ongoing conversion and hope. It is only with the power of this light that our eyes and hearts will be open to discerning the cultural change necessary for the Church to be ever more truly a sign and instrument of God's reign right here and right now.

Ode to the Light of Christ

Come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord.

Let us not fear the past
when our hearts were heavy.

Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 2:5)

Come, let us bring light from the darkness.

Let us make evil good
and find sweet in the bitter.

Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:20)

Come, let us weep together
when the light grew dark with the clouds,
from the darkness and distress.

Let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 5:30)

Come, let us walk with our brothers and sisters,
those who have walked in darkness.

Let them see the great Light of God
and let us Shine the Light of Christ. (Is. 9:2)

Composed by Fiona Duque © 2019 Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. All rights reserved. Fiona Duque from St Bede's Catholic College Chisholm has written a beautiful Ode to the Light of Christ. This Ode will remain one of the permanent features of the Church response to the Perpetual Day of Remembrance.

Parish News

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS: *We remember in prayer ...*

Leonie Pickett, Veronica Hipwell, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Mick King, Margaret McLellan, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Emma Pacifico, Lorraine Caldwell, Emilinda Peralta, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Dean Hart, Barry Moore, Chris Patsan, Catherine Hobbs, Bernadette Coffey, Dorota Bakowska, Abby Rodwell, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Maria Richardson, Stanislaw Ksiadz, Maria Kanonczuk, Penny Harrison, Ren'nee Dodge, Sharyn Trappel, Clare Sullivan, Aileen A'Beckett, Maureen Joseph

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Reflection for the Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday Readings

The readings seek to help us to focus on our experience of death, of loss, of dryness, of hopelessness in the face of impossible challenges – like a valley of lifeless, dry bones. In the face of such dryness and loss, God calls the prophet Ezekiel to speak a word that raises up new life. In response we proclaim in faith, 'My soul is thirsting for the living God'. In the Gospel we hear the faith and promise of a young woman who though she felt 'lowly', dared to say 'yes' to God who had 'done great things' for her, and would continue to do so into the future, routing from the human heart all that diminishes the life of others. And so, the dying-rising pattern of our lives has its influence on others.



It is fair to say that Ezekiel was not part of whatever created the valley of dry bones in which God placed him. No avoidance. God made him walk up and down among the bones.

Similarly, as many say, we are not responsible for creating the dry bones of our Church's history of sexual abuse of children. And still, like Ezekiel, the hand of the Lord has been laid on us. We – the members of the Body of Christ today – are asked by God to 'prophesy' through our lives and prayer, so that healing and life is brought to this valley of dry bones that we all experience in some way.

Our own experiences of such dry bones, our own thirst for the living God, our own remembering of 'the great things God has done for me', empowers us to offer our personal and communal 'yes' to God.

It is for us to ponder how our 'yes' can embody the mercy of God that reaches from age to age; how our yes can help to rout from our own hearts and society those human qualities that continue to enable even subtle forms of abuse – disrespect, silence, judgment, privilege. (cf. Prayer for turning on the light of Christ p. 7) What are the dry bones that in this age deal death rather than life?

The striking image of the dry bones and Mary's proclamation connected by our communal 'thirsting for the living God' includes us all, reaching beyond the dichotomies of perpetrator and victim/survivor, past and present, me/us and them.

It is hoped that these readings with their stark images will free the preacher from talking literally about the 'dreadful history ...'. Rather they invite us all to move beyond just looking at the dry bones of our history and crying out, 'Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone!' They are a word of Hope that invite us to action; to live lives that proclaim the greatness of the Lord here and now. They echo a call to conversion.

If the light of Christ is to shine, if the mercy of God is to reach into this time and place, if hope is to be found, then we need to follow the example of Ezekiel and Mary and say our 'yes' to God.

Sr Louise Gannon rsj

Our Parish Notices

Wednesday, 8 September (during the week) - **The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Entrance Antiphon: "Let us celebrate with joy the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for from her arose the sun of justice, Christ our God".



Thank You - This is a humble thank you for the wonderful support I received following my June accident. Messages and cards expressing concern for my well-being and promises of prayers for my recovery were received from all three communities of All Saints Parish. In response to all those prayers I am home now and doing well. Thank you everyone for the love I experienced from Fr. Joseph and from across our parish. With my love and thanks, Paula.

Serafina Angeli, daughter of Robert & Giavanna, and formerly at St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton hopes her major work of creative non-fiction, *The Unfettered Soul*, serves as a meditation on life's dichotomies - light and dark, hope and despair, love and loss. It is based on Serafina's great-grandmother's life in 20th Century Italy. Since completing her HSC, Serafina has moved to Sydney and is completing a degree in Media and Communications. The Parish Community congratulates Serafina on her achievement and credit to her parents. We wish her all the best and continue to pray for her.

Parish Office Staffing - due to the current lockdown, the Diocese has reduced the parish secretary hours to 2 days (Tuesdays & Wednesdays) per week. Louise continues to work from home. As the bulletin will be distributed during Wednesday, please have all bulletin requests lodged by 10.00am on Wednesday. Please let us know if there is anyone who would like to receive the bulletin via email. It will also be posted on the parish website allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au when time allows.

Second-hand car required - parishioner, Rachael Unicomb is looking for a safe and reliable 2nd hand car for her almost 17 year old daughter as a surprise for Xmas. If any parishioners know of anyone selling their car in the next few months, it would be truly appreciated if they could call Rachael on M 0418 234 330 or E Rachael.unicomb@newcastle.edu.au) as she would be really interested in buying it quickly.

DIOCESAN / OTHER NOTICES:

Plenary Council Conversations - In preparation for the upcoming First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council our Diocesan Plenary Council members Bernadette Gibson, Fr Andrew Doohan VG, and Helen Belcher are seeking input from our diocesan community. You are invited to join them for a series of conversations around the Plenary Council agenda and its associated questions, and guided by the Holy Spirit, so they can hear from as many people as possible. Plenary Conversations will be over a number of weeks each Thursday from 26/8 to 30/9 - 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. Program for Plenary Council Conversations: [Online Registration](#) is now open to register for all or one of the conversations.

- * Thursday 16/9 – Structures
- * Thursday 23/9 – Governance
- * Thursday 30/9 – Institutions

Seasons of Creation Celebration - This year the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, is partnering with Seasons of Creation to help raise awareness of the urgent need to care for the earth and for one another. Join us to hear guest speakers (Father Anthony Coloma, Louise Campbell, John Sandy and Mary-Anne DeLuca) break open this year's Season of Creation theme, "A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God". 2:00pm Saturday, 25 September 2021 Click [here](#) to book.

"Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Family Year" 19 March 2021 - 26 June 2022 is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations. Over the course of ten monthly episodes, hear the Holy Father talk about each of the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation Amoris Laetitia, along with the testimonies of different families who will share some aspects of their daily lives. This initiative is a joint collaboration between the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and Vatican News, and aims to facilitate the reading of the Apostolic Exhortation, with the aid of downloadable material prepared for personal and community reflection. To access this resource: <http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia/iniziativa-e-risorsa/10-video-amoris-laetitia.html>

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/pages/live-stream/>

Perpetual Day of Remembrance Sunday - Year B

First Reading Ezk 37:1-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The hand of the Lord was laid on me, and he carried me away by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley, a valley full of bones. He made me walk up and down among them. There were vast quantities of these bones on the ground the whole length of the valley; and they were quite dried up. He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'You know, Lord.'" He said, 'Prophecy over these bones. Say, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. The Lord says this to these bones: I am now going to make the breath enter you, and you will live. I shall put sinews on you, I shall make flesh grow on you, I shall cover you with skin and give you breath, and you will live; and you will learn that I am the Lord.'" I prophesied as I had been ordered. While I was prophesying, there was a noise, a sound of clattering; and the bones joined together. I looked, and saw that they were covered with sinews; flesh was growing on them and skin was covering them, but there was no breath in them. He said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man. Say to the breath, "The Lord says this: Come from the four winds, breath; breathe on these dead; let them live!"' I prophesied as he had ordered me, and the breath entered them; they came to life again and stood up on their feet, a great, an immense army.

Then he said, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They keep saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope has gone; we are as good as dead." So prophecy. Say to them, "The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this it is the Lord who speaks."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

My soul is thirsting for the living God.

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.
2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see

the face of God?

3. O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell.

4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy.

My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God.

Second Reading Rm 14:7 – 9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine in the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:46-56

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.

Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.

'He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy – according to the promise he made to our ancestors – of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

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