

## The Perspective of Justice - A Prophetic Race

The first reading deals with the witness of the prophet Ezekiel. The Gospel deals with the witness of the prophet Jesus. Both accounts leave no doubt that the prophet is in for trouble: the people, "rebels who have rebelled against God," find the prophet "too much for them." Paul describes what awaits the prophet: mistreatment, distress, persecutions and difficulties.

Our age has had its prophets: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Thomas Merton, Mahatma Gandhi, Pope John XXIII. Theirs were not easy lives, and many of them were killed by "rebels who have rebelled against God." Because of their lives, which bore witness to "the power of Christ," the rest of us have been able to grow in faith.

"Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites." (First Reading) That message to Ezekiel echoes in God's sending of today's prophets. It would be a mistake to think that only Romero and Gandhi and those like them had a calling to be prophets.

We believe that we are a prophetic race, called to be prophets in the midst of "a rebellious house." Our task is "to bring Good News to the poor," to speak God's word in such a way that "they shall know that a prophet has been among them."

The consequence of such prophecy will inevitably be trial and difficulty, but also the victory of the God whose "right hand is filled with justice."

We urge (everyone), again and again, to spare no labours and let no difficulties conquer them, but rather to become day by day more courageous and more valiant. Arduous indeed is the task which We propose to them, for We know well that ... there are many obstacles and barriers to be overcome. Let them not, however, lose heart; to face bitter combats is a mark of Christians, and to endure grave labours to the end is a mark of them who, as good soldiers of Christ, follow him closely.

Pope Pius XI, Quadragesimo Anno, 1931:138

*Gerald Darring*

*Gerald Darring is an Professor of Theology at Spring Hill College, Alabama*

*Don't lose hope.*

**When the sun goes down, the stars come up.**

### EVENING VESPERS:

*Please find below links for nightly prayers.*

Monday: [https://youtu.be/1dCfwvKws\\_o](https://youtu.be/1dCfwvKws_o)

Tuesday: <https://youtu.be/dq60vIUtwKg>

Wednesday: <https://youtu.be/VrYiVH2li78>

Thursday: <https://youtu.be/nRhH0uVHSwM>

Friday: <https://youtu.be/zgWiuTbUWYU>

<https://youtu.be/zgWiuTbUWYU>

### NAIDOC WEEK: 4th - 11th July 2021

NAIDOC Week is not only celebrated in Indigenous communities, it is an opportunity for all Australians - whatever their heritage - to come together to learn about and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and their achievements, culture and contributions to our great land. Please go to:

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/> for further information.

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



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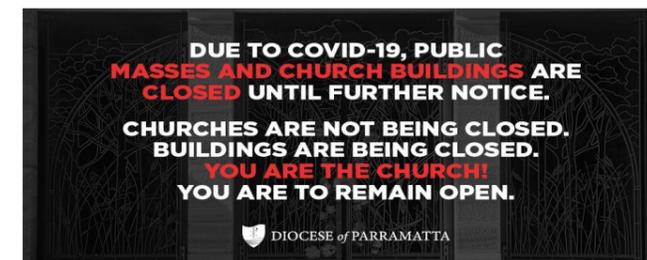
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Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



### THE FIRST READING

*Ezekiel 2:2-5*

*Whether they heed or resist - for they are a rebellious house - they shall know that a prophet has been among them.*

Again

you send  
your wise ones.  
To ripen our souls,  
to warm our cold hearts.

Please,  
look beyond our rebellions  
and show us how to  
be prophets in  
our own  
time.

*Anne Osdieck*

### THE SECOND READING

*2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*

Life torments us  
and we dissolve like dust.  
And when abuse is raging; and  
sleep neglects its job;  
and sadness and  
hardships  
rule,

Christ,  
please gather us close to you.  
Wrap us in the comfort  
of your love  
and

make all our  
weakness  
grace.

*Anne Osdieck*

Today's Readings: *Ezek 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6*

**Entrance Antiphon:** Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the end of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122**

**R. Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me: he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**Next Week: Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13**



**Sick:** Lisa Vaughan, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley **and all Private Intentions.**  
*Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

## Parish and Local Community News

**BIBLICAL STUDIES AT ST FINBARS:** Thursdays - August 5th & 19th; September 2nd & 18th, always at 7pm. The Prophets in the Old Testament: Messengers or Whistle-Blowers? For the modern person, the word prophet falls almost entirely within the realm of prognostication. Names like Nostradamus and Jeanne Dixon, among others, come to mind - folk who claim (or the claim is made by others) that they can foresee the future. Prophets in the Bible do not fit neatly into this narrow category. To be sure, they made predictions, many of them quite striking. Nonetheless, their material was so diverse and wide-ranging that prognostication is too confining a term. During the four weeks, we will examine the prophetic books of the Old Testaments and study their cultural, historical, and theological contents. All are welcome. Gold Coin donation. For registration, please contact Julian Knouf at [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au).

**MASS FOR YOU AT HOME:** Many people who are isolated, in hospital or do not have the internet, rely on Mass For You at Home. The Catholic Mass is broadcast free-to-air each Sunday morning on Channel 10 and WIN at 6.00am. Find some familiar faces from the Diocese of Parramatta celebrating Mass over the coming weeks. Find out more at [www.massforyou.com.au](http://www.massforyou.com.au).

**ACOLYTE MINISTRY:** If you are 18 years and over (male or female) and would be interest in this ministry, please contact the parish office. On the 10th January 2021, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter titled *Spiritus Domini*, which modified the Code of Canon Law to allow women, as well as men, to be installed in the Ministry of Acolyte.

**POSITION VACANT:** Head of Finance & Business Operations – Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited (CDPSL) – Applications close 5pm Monday 5 July. More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment).

**CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE BOOK GIVEAWAY:** With thanks to Catholic Healthcare, the Winter 2021 edition of the *Catholic Outlook* Magazine is giving away three copies of the wonderful book "Sharing the Wisdom of Time by Pope Francis and Friends" just in time for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. Entries are now open until **15 July 2021**.

**'THE WELL' OFFERS NEW REFRESHMENT IN 2021:** 'The Well' is back in 2021. The team are hoping to drip-feed new and relatable content every 72 hours that supports your ministry with family, friends, students, colleagues and strangers. Check it out on [www.thewell.org.au](http://www.thewell.org.au).

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL LIVESTREAMED MASS:** Mass will be livestreamed daily from St Patrick's Cathedral via their Facebook page and YouTube channel. Copy the link to join on YouTube. <https://tinyurl.com/stpatsyoutube>. Livestreamed Mass Times: Monday to Friday 6.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 11.00am.

**IGNITE CONFERENCE:** Every year, Ignite Youth hosts ones of Australia's most powerful **Catholic youth conferences**. Ignite Conference draws together a network of high schoolers, young adults, ministry leaders, families, teachers, priests and religious people from around the country. Sydney 29 September - 2 October 2021 at Freeman College, Bonnyrigg. For more information and registration go to: [www.igniteconference.com.au](http://www.igniteconference.com.au)

## CONFIRMATION 2021

We invite you and your child to be part of the Confirmation Program in our parish this year. Children in Year 6 or older, who have not yet received Confirmation, and have received Reconciliation and First Communion, are invited to participate. Confirmation will take place on **Tuesday 31st August at 7.00pm**.

The preparation for this sacrament is centered at home where parents, with the aid of a booklet and notes, help their child to come to know the Lord. At the same time there will be weekly meetings (maximum 45 - 60 minutes duration undertaken via ZOOM) where parents and children come together in small groups to share their experiences. These meetings are led by a member of the group. The program will run for a period of 4 weeks from the week starting 25th July 2021. *We will only be undertaking this year's Sacramental Program via ZOOM as next year we anticipate being back to normal.*

If you feel that either you or your child are not ready to make this step, please feel free to delay it to a later date. If, however, you wish to participate in the program, you are required to attend two meetings: **the first compulsory Parent Meeting is on Tuesday 13th July at 7pm AND the second compulsory meeting on Tuesday 20th July at 7pm, both in the Church.**

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR UPDATES ON THESE DATES AND TIMES FOR ANY CHANGES**

## A Weekend Prayer from Father Paul

Dear Parishioners,

I have selected a prayer which is also from my earlier years of Priesthood and it is a reminder to me of all that we are to remember and pray for.

**Remember Lord**

The sick among your people;  
Heal them in your compassion.

**Remember Lord**

The fruits of the earth;  
Bless them and keep them without loss.

**Remember Lord**

The coming down of the rains;  
And bless them.

**Remember Lord**

The seeds and fruits of every year;  
Bless them and make them abundant.

**Remember Lord**

The safety of your human family and beasts;  
Bless them with gentleness and wisdom, compassion and peace.

**Remember Lord**

The afflicted and distressed, the poor and oppressed;  
Have pity on them, show them kindness.

**Remember Lord**

We your people who seek to walk in your way;  
Bless us with your light and wisdom  
Make us the dwelling place of your Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*

## House of Welcome Thank You :

As you know the lockdown has interrupted our food drive for the House of Welcome. All donations brought to the church and parish centre were taken to the House of Welcome on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June.

Everyone at the House of Welcome was delighted and sends their thanks for all items including blankets and food. Special thanks go to the hand-made blankets that are being sent to a family who are in great need.

This wonderful initiative has **been paused** for the moment until the lockdown ends and then we will continue with the food drive. We will let everybody know via the parish website, Mass and the Facebook page. *(They promise there were smiles behind the masks)!*



*Thanks to the team: Anne-Marie Clifton, Therese Wachter, Phil Saville, Liz & Vic O'Callaghan.*